

FOL

EDISON BROTHERS STORES INC.

501 NORTH BROADWAY, P. O. BOX 14020, ST. LOUIS, MO 63178

BERNARD EDISON

May 1, 1995

Mr. Jean-Louis Descours
Groupe Andre
28 Rue De Flandre
75940 Paris Cedex 19e
FRANCE

Dear Jean-Louis:

I am enclosing three copies of our annual report for 1994, which has just been printed. I am also including a copy of the Form 10K which gives additional information and our proxy statement for the annual meeting of shareholders.

An item relating to American coins of the era which I collect and about which I do research has come to my attention. There is a very rare booklet written in French about an exhibition of American coins at the Bibliotheque Imperiale in 1861. I am enclosing a reproduction of the first page of the catalogue. Do you know anyone at the Bibliotheque Nationale who could find out if this collection is still there? If so, would it be possible for me to view the collection? With the Bibliotheque Nationale's permission, I would like to write a brief article for some American journal of numismatic research about it. Some of the coins described are quite rare and much discussed by numismatists in the U.S. The information about this collection which was formed so long ago would be of great interest to these researchers.

Please give our fondest greetings to Nicole. We are looking forward to seeing you again as soon as we can arrange it.

Sincerely,

Bunny
Bernard Edison

mb

Enclosures

W as early as Sat 9/2
RTN no later than Th 9/22

Pierre Amandrie ^{person} EPN
is head of coin div.

~~to EPN~~ Leroyder
EPN know... ↑ (decant)
+ predecessor

Le 26 mai 1995

FAX appelé : 19 1 314 721. 60.15

A L'ATTENTION DE : Mr. Bernard EDISON

DE LA PART DE : M. Jean-Louis DESCOURS

Nombre de pages (celle-ci comprise) : 1

OBJET : Informations sur une collection de Monnaies et Médailles de l'Amérique du Nord de 1652 à 1858. Votre lettre du 1er mai 1995.

- Cette collection est bien à la Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris. Elle se compose de 120 à 150 monnaies ou médailles.

- Elle peut être visitée à la Bibliothèque Nationale : 58 rue de Richelieu - Paris 1er (ouverte de 9 à 17 h.).

- Prendre contact auparavant avec M. POPOV, responsable de ce secteur au 47.03.75.27 qui se fera un plaisir de recevoir M. Edison et lui donnera toute autorisation pour écrire un article sur cette collection.

Amitiés.

Jean-Louis Descours

GROUPE ANDRE SA
Direction Générale
28 rue de Flandre
75949 Paris cedex 19
Tél. 44.72.33.01
Fax. 40.34.35.01

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[011.33.1.7] →

Jean-Louis Descours

FAX
47.03.75.27

MICHEL POPOFF
conservateur en chef
Cabinet des Médailles
Bib Nat de France
58 rue de Richelieu
75084 Paris CEDEX 02

My French numismatic
~~of~~ luminaries
whom I knew
were

Jean Lafaurie
Georges he ~~R~~ider

EPN
6/5/95

EDISON BROTHERS STORES INC.

501 NORTH BROADWAY, P. O. BOX 14020, ST. LOUIS, MO 63178

BERNARD EDISON

June 15, 1995

VIA FAX

M. Michel POPOFF
Conservateur en Chef
Cabinet des Medailles
Bibliotheque Nationale de France

Dear M. POPOFF:

Enclosed is the article from this past Sunday's New York Times which I mentioned to your secretary this morning. I will mail you the actual article. For your records, my mailing address is:

Mr. Bernard Edison
c/o Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
P. O. Box 14020
St. Louis, MO 63178

Telephone number - 314-331-6501
Fax number - 314-331-7517

I will be writing you shortly about the plans for September as soon as they are final.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bernard Edison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bernard" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Edison".

Bernard Edison

mb

Enclosure

R. TETTENHORST
P. O. Box 14020
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

June 19, 1995

Naphtzer
Ted,

Here is the catalogue of the
Vatterware collection. For a work
of 134 years ago, it seems quite
sophisticated to me. I have marked
a few comments that seem a bit
amusing from today's perspective.

It will be particularly interesting to
see if the proof-only half cents of the
1840's are originals or restrikes.

Hope you will be able come along.

Tett

*also enc. article
from NY Times 6-11-95*

EDISON BROTHERS STORES INC.

501 NORTH BROADWAY, P. O. BOX 14020, ST. LOUIS, MO 63178

BERNARD EDISON

June 26, 1995

ERIC NEWMAN

I am excited to report that the Alexandre Vattemare collection described in the catalogue from 1861 at what was then the Bibliotheque Imperiale still exists, reportedly intact, at the Bibliotheque Nationale. Through the kind intervention of Jean-Louis Descours, we have been invited to examine the coins. I have spoken to M. Popoff. He was very gracious. The second week in September seems like a mutually convenient time. The letter from Jean-Louis Descours is attached.


BERNARD EDISON

mb

Attachment

GROUPE ANDRE SA
Direction Générale
28 rue de Flandre
75949 Paris cedex 19
Tél. 44.72.33.01
Fax. 40.34.35.01

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Amitiés.

Jean-Louis Descours

Mr. Newman:

Note: Mr. Descours' letter refers to "M. Popov." However, the correct spelling is "M. Popoff."

Mr. Edison said if you would like him to rephrase his letter to you in any way, please let him know.

MARSHA

Aug 31 - Sept 18 *818-819

985.21 lowest avail - penalties
 935.21 " existing "
2547.21 Y fare

\$2227.21 EBS "ZONE"
negotiated fare
• tax old bus _____
Req Bus Cl about 3600

FRENCH COIN VOCABULARY

obvers

revers

coin (die)

monnaie (coin)

retirage (restrike)

specimen

apreuve

flan poli

flan bruni proof

fleur de coin

LE SUBJONCTIF LE SUBJONCTIF LE SUBJONCTIF LE SUBJONCTIF LE SUBJONCTIF LE
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SUBJONCTIF LE SUBJONCTIF LE SUBJONCTIF LE SUBJONCTIF LE SUBJONCTIF LE SUBJONCTIF

Marthe

1. Le subjonctif est le temps de la SUBJECTIVITE, il indique:

- a. le doute
 - b. les sentiments
 - c. la volonté
 - d. lejugement
 - e. la nécessité, la possibilité, l'improbabilité
- *****

A. Le subjonctif exprime le DOUTE:

Je doute que

B. Le subjonctif exprime des SENTIMENTS:

Je suis content que
je suis heureux que
je suis désolé que
je suis furieux que
je suis étonné que
je suis jaloux que
je suis ravi que
je suis surpris que
j'aime mieux que
je préfère que
je regrette que
j'ai peur que
je crains que

C. Le subjonctif exprime la VOLONTE:

Je permets que
je veux que
j'exige que
j'insiste que
je défends que
j'empêche que
je souhaite que

D. Le subjonctif exprime le JUGEMENT:

Il est bon que
il est juste que
ilest utile que
il est triste que
il est merveilleux que
il est important que

il est douteux que
il est inconcevable que
il est inadmissible que
il est irritant que
il est regrettable que
il vaut mieux que
il convient que
il est temps que
Ce n'est pas la peine que
c'est une bonne idée que

E: Le subjonctif exprime la NECESSITE, la POSSIBILITE, l'IMPROBABILITE:

Il faut que
il est nécessaire que
il importe que
il est impossible que
est-il possible que.....?
il est peu probable que
il est improbable que
il n'est pas probable que
est-il probable que.....?

ATTENTION:

EXCEPTIONS (negative uses SUBJ !)

Il est probable que + indicatif

Exemple: il est probable qu'il viendra (futur) demain.

Il est probable qu'il est venu hier soir (passé composé)

Le verbe espérer est toujours à l'indicatif

Exemple: Il espère qu'il pourra (futur) venir demain soir au cinéma.

Elle espère qu'ils sont venus (passé composé) hier soir chez elle.

Exercices d'application:

A. Un membre de votre famille vient de faire un achat important et vous savez qu'il n'a pas beaucoup d'argent. Qu'est-ce que vous lui dites? Employez les expressions ci-dessus.

B. Quelle sera votre vie dans un an? Imaginez des questions auxquelles vous répondrez en utilisant les expressions suivantes:

Il est certain que
il se peut que
il n'est pas sûr que
il est impossible que
il est peu probable que
il est douteux que
il est possible que

2. Le subjonctif s'emploie après les conjonctions suivantes:

pour que so that
sans que without
afin que so that
pourvu que provided that
avant que before (ne, explétif)
à moins que unless (ne, explétif)
à condition que
de crainte que for fear that (ne, explétif) *is not a negative*
de peur que for fear that (ne, explétif)
bien que although
quoique although
jusqu'à ce que until
autant que as far as

*** Après que, exige l'indicatif.

Après qu'il était parti, elle se reposait.

ATTENTION:

Les conjonctions ci-dessous emploient l'indicatif:

tandis que
pendant que
quand
lorsque
aussitôt que
dès que

Exemple: Elle parle en français tandis qu'elle pense (présent) en anglais.

Exercice d'application:

Complétez les phrases suivantes:

je patienterai jusqu'à ce que

je suis content, bien que

nous allons vous aider, afin que

La porte est trop étroite pour que

Venez me voir avant que

Cet artiste deviendra virtuose pourvu que

3. Le subjonctif s'emploie après les verbes d'opinion suivants à la forme négative et interrogative:

croire je ne crois pas qu'il sache que nous sommes ici.

Crois-tu qu'il sache que nous sommes ici?

Imitez la phrase ci-dessus en utilisant les verbes ci-dessous:

penser que

être sûr que

dire que

se souvenir que

affirmer que

déclarer que

se douter que

supposer que

être d'avis que

être d'accord que

il (me) semble que

Attention:

Quand ces verbes sont suivis d'une action future ou éventuelle, ON PEUT EMPLOYER LE FUTUR OU LE CONDITIONNEL au lieu du subjonctif.

Exemple:

accepte

Etes-vous sûr qu'il acceptera (futur) ce poste?

Vous semble-t-il que nous pourrions aller au zoo demain?

interrogative

*Futur if it is a fact
subj " " " my opinion*

Exercice d'application:

Donnez votre opinion sur les sujets suivants en employant l'expression qui convient:

1. Que pensez-vous de la peine de mort?

2. Que pensez-vous des végétariens?

3. Le subjonctif après les expressions comme:

quelque however + adjectif

si

tout

pour

quelque however + nom

quelque difficulté que nous ayons

quelques chagrins qu'ils aient

quel que whatever + nom

quelle que

quels que

quelles que

qui que whoever

quoi que whatever

où que wherever

de quelque manière que in whatever way

qui que ce soit qui, whoever

qui que ce soit que whomsoever

Attention

Ces expressions s'emploient avec l'indicatif

Whatever n'importe quel, quelle, quels, quelles

whenever n'importe quand, toutes les fois que, lorsque

anyone at all n'importe qui

anything at all n'importe quoi

whatever n'importe quoi

however much avoir beau + infinitif

5. Le subjonctif s'emploie avec un superlatif ou avec une expression à valeur superlative:

Le seul, les seuls, la seule, les seules, le dernier (etc), le premier (etc), l'unique, il n'y a que

subj if it is your opinion
present a fact

Attention:

Si celui qui parle est parfaitement objectif, on emploiera l'indicatif, mais si celui qui parle exprime une émotion, un jugement, une attitude subjective, on emploiera le subjonctif.

Exemple: Il n'y a que lui qui me comprenne. (J'insiste sur le fait que pour moi il n'y a qu'une personne qui me comprend et c'est lui. J'insiste sur le côté subjectif de ma réponse.)

Il n'y a que lui qui me comprend. (Je constate une vérité objective. Cette personne existe et il me comprend)

Bon courage! j'espère que cette petite séance vous aura plu et que le subjonctif n'a plus de secret pour vous!

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

8/7/95

Bernard:

In connection with your planned trip to Paris to check the coins in the collection of Alexandre Vattemar in the Bibilothèque Nationale I have checked the listed holdings in the 1861 catalog and have the following comments:

The half cents seem to be an unusually fine group and I am sure you will enjoy studying them. The cents will be interesting if their condition is superb.

Premier Periode:

Head right, low grade. Reverse so corroded I cannot read the date. Only Rosa Americana

Item 11. Listed as a George II halfpence with a date 1773. George III was reigning in 1773, not George II. This could be an error in the listing of the date or a counterfeit halfpence in which a die mixup sometimes occurred. Check the date. Check to see if it is sand cast or struck. The George II head faces left and the George III head faces right on genuine pieces.

Deuxieme Periode:

Item 37. Does this LIBERNATUS piece have a period before and after EXCELSIOR on the reverse? *No* If it does it is a copy. If it doesn't it is probably genuine and quite rare. Of course I assume it is not an electrotype.

Item 39. Imprint of the reverse of a Brasher doubloon. I assume this may be a picture. The original coin is in gold. Perhaps it is a copy and if so what metal is it? Is it an electrotype? Could it be a nickel, brass or tin struck copy.

Item 57. The genuine 1792 Washington President I piece made by Ephraim Getz comes only in copper and silver. It is quite scarce. The book states its metal is E. Does that mean electrotype? It states the reverse is like item 55 which is dated 1791. It says 15 stars instead of 8. Please count them as both are in error. It also says it is white metal which can only be an electro or cast. Does the reverse have a date or not.

Troisieme Periode:

Item 39. Does this \$5 piece have the word Kettle on it to the right of the date? *No* It is a copy whether that word is removed or not.

Yes, very brassy in color, well worn the description says copper gilt

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

BE
verbally
answered
EPN 6/28/95

Bernard:

I have reviewed the list of the Vattermare Collection and I would like to have more information on the description of a few items:

Colonial # 39 Brasher - Is this a copper piece or is this a cast or electro ?

Colonial # 57 Washington Pres I - Is this an electro, a cast or a genuine piece ? It is only known in copper and silver.

Federal Period # 39 - Is this a \$5 jeton in copper ?

Federal Period # 40 Is this a \$2½ jeton in copper ? Kettle made jetons in England.

Perhaps gilt - does not appear to be copper
Same

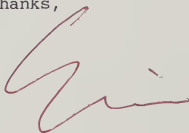
Federal Period # 70 Is this said to be an alteration ? Yes

Federal Period # 71 This is an alteration ! Yes

The dates of the 1 cents seem rather complete. I note the ½ cents lack 1796, 1800 & 1802. The silver & gold are rather weak.

If my French were better I would not have to ask about this.

Thanks,



Half Cents

Coin #5 is a 1793 C3. Using photograde guiding it is probably a VG, but with some edge nicks and other marks probably a net good of some sort by EAC standards. There is tiny planchet flake under the "t" of "Liberty." Edge lettering is complete and normal.

Coin #6 is called a half penny but is a Washington token of some sort. On the obverse it says "Washington President" and on the reverse there is a picture of a ship and words "Half Penny" and the date "1793." It is the diameter of a large cent, but thinner.

Coin #9 is a 1794 C4a with small edge letters. Again, it is well worn; perhaps a strong very good by photograde standards. Some hair detail ends. A few of the leaves show separation. All the design elements are strong. It is an early die state with no sign of the obverse bulge or the reverse crack. The obverse is slightly pink in color which might indicate that it was polished many years ago, but I am not sure. This is only on the head, not on the field part of the planchet. The dies were slightly out of alignment when struck, which means that the left side of the coin on both the obverse and the reverse is more strongly struck than on the right. This shows up particularly in the denticles.

Coin #17 is a very well worn 1795 C1. Again, as to detail, it is probably VG, but it has been heavily polished on both sides to an unnatural new copper color, even on the fields, and then lacquered. It has a number of marks and so forth, consistent with heavy wear. I hesitate to attempt a net grade, but it might be in the "about good" area. The edge lettering is complete and normal.

Coin #18 is a 1795 C6a. Again, it is probably "very good" as to the detail, but it has been deliberately and heavily scratched on both sides; almost mutilated. There is an undertype, probably a ~~Talbot~~ ^{Talbot} ~~Alan~~ ^{Lee} token, with the letters ~~CE~~ clearly visible under the date. No signs of the undertype appear on the reverse.

Coin #28 is a 1797 C1. VG as to detail, but with a rough planchet on both sides, probably reducing the net grade. It is a late die state with the letters ~~ry~~ not visible because of the cracks as are the letters on the corresponding position ~~led~~ on the reverse. There appears to be some sign of the undertype to the right of the bow, probably from the Talbot ~~Alteman~~ ^{Talbot} Lee set. ?

Coin #36 is an 1800 C1. Strong ~~fine~~ as to wear but with roughness to a slight degree on both sides of the planchet. It is slightly off-center towards 8 o'clock on the reverse. The evidence of die crumbling at the rim on the obverse is clear from about 10 o'clock to 12 o'clock.

— Coin #42 is an 1803 C1. The coin is photograde EF as to wear, ~~EF photograde~~ ^P as to wear but with some slight roughness and minor defects, which would certainly reduce the net grade. It is a late die state with two reverse cracks joined to the right of ¹/₂ in half. There is a scratch from the hair bow to the rim to the left of the "E" which is rather pronounced.

— Coin #45 is an 1804 C6. It is, again, approximately ^P photograde EF as to wear but with some slight roughness on ^{NO} planchet and a few carbon spots on the obverse and a few slight marks on the ~~obverse~~. It is an intermediate die state with the cud solid from about the middle of "M" to the upper left corner of "E" and also a triangular break over the "A" of America (first "A"). The break at the bottom goes to the space between "N" and "I." It fully covers ^{NO} but there is only a crack under the fraction. Also, the two fine line cracks above the left hand side of ^M of America have not yet joined.

— Coin #49 is an 1805 C1, which is good as to wear but which has been severely ^P hammered on. Altogether, an atrocious specimen of no interest.

2 C1 or C
Coin #52 is an 1806 half cent. About fine as to detail but with some roughness and slight marks, as one might expect. Some evidence of the rim crumbling is visible underneath the right ribbon.

Coin #56 is an 1807 C1. Close to very fine as to wear. No major marks on the obverse, but some marks on the reverse. It is a late die state with no signs of the denticles showing.

— Coin #58 is an 1808 ^{NO} C3. Perhaps fine as to detail but rough and somewhat corroded on the reverse.

— Coin #60 is an 1809 C3. Probably a strong ^P VF photograde as to wear with a slight amount of roughness to the planchet. Rim crumbling is visible from ^S "A" to ^{S1} "A" and over the first "A" of America.

Coin #62 is an 1810 C1. Strong AU as to wear with many traces of original red around the devices.

Coin #64 is an 1811 C2. The detail is good, but there are some scratches and edge nicks, particularly on the reverse. No traces of the die cracks mentioned by Cohen are visible.

— Coin #83 is an 1825 C2. The wear as to detail is probably ^{VF} VF on the obverse and EF on the reverse. There is some roughness to the planchet, particularly on the reverse, and a few scratches on the obverse.

Coin #85 is an 1826 C1. Very good as to wear but with some roughness.

Coin #89 is an 1828 C3. At least ^F EF as to wear. Nice light chocolate color.

AU

— Coin #92 is an 1829 C1. On the obverse it is ^{AU} as to wear with full bright red in the fields. The reverse is probably fully MS60 as to wear, and full original red throughout. Lovely coin, in spite of a few scattered carbon spots.

— Coin #98 is an mint state 1832 C2. The obverse has a great deal of red underneath some toning and proof like surfaces. The reverse is ~~is~~ fully red with some toning in the center and a slightly duller surface.

Coin #101 is an 1833 C1. On the obverse it is fully red, uncirculated, and proof-like. The reverse is also proof-like, but the surfaces show more toning over the red. The die crack through the left stars on the obverse is clear.

— Coin #103 is a mint state 1834 C1. It is proof-like. Quite a bit of toned red ~~on~~ the obverse. The reverse has more toning over the surface, which is also somewhat proof-like. It is very well struck. It has squared edges. This could even be a proof. I would like to compare it with mine to be sure.

— Coin #106 is an 1835 C2. Fully mint state with a toned red obverse and spots of proof-like surface. The reverse is fully red and more proof-like. Again, I don't think this is a proof, but it would be interesting to compare with mine. The only die cracks visible are the ones through the top of the last five letters of "America".

AMERICA

— Coin #109 is an 1836; apparently an original. No trace of ~~the wear like~~ ^{wire} rim on either side. The obverse is somewhat dull in tone with a proof-like surface. The reverse is fully red and glittering proof-like surface. The condition of this coin makes me more anxious than ever to compare the 1834 and 1835 with other proof and proof-like specimens.

— Coin #125 is an 1840 C1 original. The obverse is toned and has some slight marks on it with ~~a~~ slightly dulled field surface. The reverse is bright red with ~~a~~ slight dulling to the reflective surfaces. A few very tiny carbon spots. Some ~~reading~~ ^{reading} is visible on the edge just to the left of the date.

— Coin #127 is an 1841 C1 original with large berries. The condition is quite similar to that of the 1840 previously described. Brighter and more glittering surface on the reverse than on the obverse. I see no signs of edge ~~reading~~ ^{reading} on this coin. The die crack through five stars is clearly in evidence. There are even slightly more signs of handling on the obverse of this than on the 1840.

2

in

Coin #130 is an 1843 proof C1, ~~Large berry~~ ² reverse. It is ⁱⁿ somewhat better condition than the preceding two ~~coins~~ proofs. Obverse is still more toned than the reverse, and the reverse has glittering red surfaces.

Coin #132 is an 1844 Cl large berry reverse. Both sides have somewhat toned and slightly dulled surfaces.

Coin #135 is an 1845 Cl large berry reverse proof. Toned and slightly dulled on the obverse with a couple of prominent carbon spots. On the reverse the toning is limited to the center and the rest of the coin is a full glittering red.

Of the preceeding proofs of the 1840's the 1841, 1844, and 1845 show partial wire rims on the obverse. None show partial wire rims on the reverse.

Coin #140 is an 1848 large berry reverse Cl, with some toning over the red and glittering surfaces. There is no trace of wire edge on either side.

— Coin #144 is the small date large berry reverse ^{in proof.} ~~Proof only.~~ It has a wire rim on the obverse for more than 180 degrees. The obverse is toned but glittering. The reverse has more red, and is also toned and slightly duller than the obverse.

— Coin #156 is an 1850 Cl ~~half cent~~ in proof with glittering surfaces, slightly toned, very square edges. A pronounced wire rim over the entire obverse and part of the reverse. Well struck-up denticles and all of the other characteristics of a typical proof. The 1850 large cent is also a proof, but more about that later.

The tray also contains a very worn 1853 half cent, not part of The Vattermare Collection, which is marked from the "Chaslin Collection."

Coin #164 is a toned red 1855 Cl specimen.

LARGE CENTS AND OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Coin #1 is a Sheldon

Pf set
of 1850,
including
gold



若三千大千國土箇中夜
又觀刹刹來娑人聞其稱
觀世音菩薩名者是諸惡
鬼尚不能以惡眼視之況復
加害



設復有人若有罪若无罪
枷械枷鎖
觀世音菩薩
即得解脫



若三千大千國土滿
一商主將諸商人
寶經過嶮路其
唱言諸善男善女我聞觀世音
菩薩名者是菩薩能以无
畏施於衆生此等若稱名
者於此惡賊當得解脫衆
商人聞俱發聲言南无觀世
音菩薩稱其名故即得解脫
无盡意觀世音菩薩摩訶
薩威神之力巍巍如是



若有衆生多於此觀世音菩薩
敬觀世音菩薩便得離欲若
多瞋恚常念恭敬觀世音菩
薩便得離瞋若多愚癡常
念恭敬觀世音菩薩便得
離無盡意觀世音菩薩有
如是等大神力多所饒益
是故衆生常應心念



若有女人設欲求男札拜供養
觀世音菩薩便生福智慧之
男設欲求女便生端正有相之
女宿值得本衆人愛敬无盡
意觀世音菩薩有如是力若
有衆生恭敬札拜觀世音菩
薩福不唐捐是故衆生皆愿
受持觀世音菩薩名号



无盡意若有人受持六十二
恒河沙菩薩名号復盡形供養
飲食衣服卧具醫藥於汝意
本何是善男子善女人功德多
不可盡意言甚多世尊



佛言若復有人受持觀世音菩
薩名号乃至一時札拜供養是
之福心等无異於百千万億劫
不可窮盡无盡意受持觀世
音菩薩名号得如是无量无
邊福德之利

La Bibliothèque nationale de France vous présente ses meilleurs vœux pour l'année 1996

et tout particulièrement
son Cabinet des monnaies & médailles,
et vous remercie de votre envoi de
livres qui sont parvenus en parfait état

Michel Popoff

Le Sutra de Guanyin
"Sauveur des périls"
détail

Dunhuang, X^e siècle
manuscrit à peintures
encre et couleurs sur papier
hauteur 28, 5 cm
longueur 250 cm
Mission Pelliot
1906-1909, Qianfodong

Bibliothèque
nationale de France
Manuscrits orientaux

Le manuscrit original
est présenté
dans le cadre de l'exposition
Sérinde, Terre de Bouddha

aux Galeries nationales
du Grand Palais, Paris
jusqu'au 19 février 1996

Bibliothèque nationale de France
58, rue de Richelieu
75084 Paris Cedex 02
Tél. (1) 47 03 81 26

Siège social
quai François Mauriac
75706 Paris Cedex 13
Tél. (1) 53 79 53 79

EDISON BROTHERS STORES INC.

501 NORTH BROADWAY, P. O. BOX 14020, ST. LOUIS, MO 63178

BERNARD EDISON

January 17, 1996

VIA REGISTERED MAIL

M. Michel Popoff
Conservateur en Chef
Cabinet des Medailles
Bibliotheque Nationale de France
58 Rue de Richelieu
75084 Paris Cedex 02
FRANCE

Dear M. Popoff:

Thank you for your new year's card. We are happy to know that the books arrived in good condition. We hope that the strike did not inconvenience you and the Bibliotheque Nationale too greatly.

I am enclosing seven U.S. half cents (1802, 1805, 1851, 1853, 1854, 1856, 1857), which represent most of the dates in that series which are missing from your collection. The 1805 is not missing, but my notes indicate that the specimen you have is in very poor condition. The dates of your U.S. half cent collection which are still not represented include only 1796, 1831, 1842, 1846, 1847, and 1852, all of which are rare and now quite expensive.

There is one question about the Vattamare Collection with which you may be able to help me. A number of the proof only coins were obtained directly from the U.S. Mint. This would include the 1836, 1840, 1841, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1848, and 1849 half cents, and the 1850 proof set. Because some of these half cents were restruck at various times during the years after those whose dates they bear, it would be useful to researchers to know when the specimens in the Vattamare Collection were obtained from the U.S. Mint. Is there anything in the catalogue or other documentary material which you have which would help clarify the date at which the coins were received?

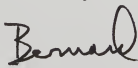
When I was in Washington D.C. recently, I saw a very interesting article on French culture, which has been appearing at the Library of Congress. The material all came from the Bibliotheque Nationale. I was particularly pleased to see that there were some coins and medals included in the exhibit.

M. Michel Popoff
Page 2 of 2
January 17, 1996

It will be a pleasure to visit your department on my next trip to Paris, particularly to see how you have been able to utilize the additional space which will become available when the new Bibliotheque opens.

I hope that 1996 will be a good year for you personally and professionally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bernard", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Bernard Edison

mb

Enclosures

Creating French Culture



TREASURES FROM THE BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE

Library of Congress
Thomas Jefferson Building
September 8–December 31, 1995

EDISON BROTHERS STORES INC.

501 NORTH BROADWAY, P.O. BOX 14020, ST. LOUIS, MO 63178-4020

OLD envelopes enclosed

Coins sent were 1802, 1854, and 1857 that EPNNES bought from Chris Victor-McCawley in the fall of 1995

PLUS

four coins from EPNNES collection which were N05.4.6, N51.1.5, 53.1.1, and N56.1.3.

mb

1/17/96

1857 HALF-CENT

1854 HALF CENT

1805

C4G2

VF

1853 CMMI GI
Ch. Unc.

1856 CIGI

EF

1851 CIGI

EF

BITN

736

1802

385-

C-2



Chris Victor-Mr. Cauley

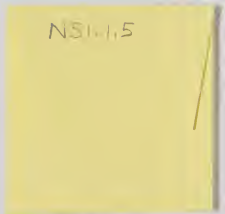
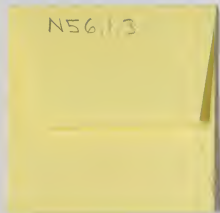
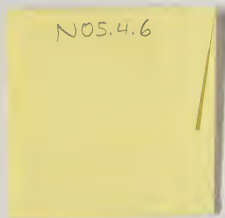
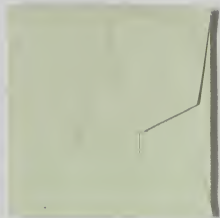
P.O. Box 296

Edmond, Oklahoma 73083

(405) 341-2213

G

LSX



EDISON BROTHERS STORES INC.

501 NORTH BROADWAY, P. O. BOX 14020, ST. LOUIS, MO 63178

BERNARD EDISON

November 1, 1995

M. Michel Popoff
Conservateur en Chef
Cabinet des Medailles
Bibliotheque Nationale de France
58 Rue de Richelieu
75084 Paris Cedex 02
FRANCE

Dear M. Popoff:

Once again, I want to thank you for the many courtesies extended to me on my visit to the Bibliotheque Nationale in September. I have purchased and shipped to you four books for the numismatic reference section of the library. They are as follows:

- 1) Walter Breen; Encyclopedia of U.S. Half Cents. This is the largest and most definitive work on U.S. half cents, which is my special field. A number of photographs are of coins in my collection. In particular, the chapter "Whoops" on pages 467 to 484 deals with error half cents. All of the photographs there are from my collection, which is referred to in the text as "The Davy Collection." In the Index (page 498) my collection is listed as "Missouri Cabinets."
- 2) Roger Cohen; American Half Cents. This is also a standard reference book on the subject. U.S. half cents are most often catalogued by their Cohen numbers. Again, some of the pictures are of coins from my collection.
- 3) William Sheldon; Penny Whimsy. This is the standard reference book on U.S. large cents from 1793 to 1814. These are universally known by their Sheldon numbers. Amazingly, Dr. Sheldon (a well known medical doctor) turned out to be a thief. He was given access to the large cents of the American Numismatic Society while he was doing research for his book. During that process, he substituted specimens of lesser quality for the better ones owned by the Society. This was discovered some years later and is still the subject of a lawsuit here in the U.S. Dr. Sheldon has been dead

M. Michel Popoff
Page 2
November 1, 1995

for many years, and the present owners of the coins he took from the ANS were entirely innocent of any knowledge about the theft.

- 4) Walter Breen; Encyclopedia of Proof Coins. This is the most definitive book on the subject of U.S. proofs. In particular, you might note several comments on page 92 (copy attached) dealing with the proof coins of 1850. The Alexandre Vattemare silver and copper proof set is described as one of three or four known.

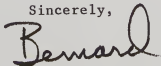
The gold proof set, which was apparently made up for the Congressional Committee on the Library, is presumably the one that Mr. Vattemare had in his collection. You still have the gold dollar, which is apparently unique, and the double eagle, which is one of only three known. The quarter dollar, half eagle and eagle which were in the Vattemare Collection and unique, are the coins we discussed while I was there. You have the notation that these were lost during the moveover of 1865.

Since the Bibliotheque's collection contains interesting coins in each of the above categories, I thought it would be useful to have these standard reference works available for research. They are coming from Charles Davis, a dealer in numismatic literature from Wenham, Massachusetts, and were shipped by surface mail last week. If you do not receive them by mid December, please let me know.

Also, I have shipped you from here a copy of the book by my cousin, Eric Newman, entitled Early Paper Money of America. It is also the standard reference work on this subject.

After I have reviewed my notes more carefully, I expect also to send you some additional half cents to round out the rather nice collection already in the possession of the Bibliotheque Nationale. I am looking forward to seeing you again in the future. Perhaps next time we can have lunch at Grand Vefour.

Sincerely,



Bernard Edison

mb

Enclosure

favoring r. edge of dentil, pendant about as on last. Die file marks below date and r. Rev. H free of leaf. Heman Ely coll. (Woodward 1/84):959, Garrett:109, \$2600, Joe Flynn.

— "Not in V. Fairly high date, 1 about touches base, 8 almost touches it, 50 free but close. The heavy parallel die file marks slant up to left of 1; skirt pendant minutely r. of tip of 5, left base of 1 about over r. edge of dentil; rather delicate letters and stars. Virgil Brand estate, Landau:379.

Eliasberg has a questionable proof with obv. V-5 (date very low, plain center dot) and new reverse with H firmly joined to adjacent leaf. Another (from different dies?) was seen in the stock of Kenneth W. Lee about 1963 along with various other proofs of the period.

Dime. *B-5. Date slants down to r., placed low, well away from base; shield point a trifle r. of tip of 1, skirt pendant left of central over top of 5. About 3 or 4 seen in all, the best of these being ex Brand, Landau:451.

Quarter. Low date, shield point about over left edge of 8, left base of 1 over right part of dentil. Prohibitively rare. Wayne Raymond had seen only one; I have records of only two aside from those in the unseen proof sets. (1) H. P. Smith:820, excessively high knife-rims (restrike?). (2) "J. H. South":515. Present whereabouts of either coin unknown, if indeed they are not the same piece. One reappeared in RARCOA's 1976 Central States sale:218, to Reed Hawn. **Half Dollar.** Several die varieties, all extremely rare.

— Very high date, 1 of date almost touching base, numerals slant down a little to right. Boyd, WGC:300, Adolph Friedman, 1946 ANA:832.

— Alleged "shift": stars and part of rocky base and seated figure show double impressions, "recutting" (?) on date, possibly Beistle 2-Aa. WGC:301, impaired. Is this just a double striking of the following?

— *High date, 185 about equidistant from base, the 0 minutely lower; numerals nearly thickness of top of 5 away from base; base of 0 in date double punched. Virgil Brand estate, Landau:580. Possibly reappearing as Lichtenfels 1:2831 (Feb. 1961), R. E. Cox:1921, KS 5/66:1200, and possibly again as Reed Hawn:171 at \$1,200.

Not identifiable as to variety among the above: (1) Norweb. (2) "Dupont":2137 at \$120 to Ilorland. (3) Dr. R. H. Wilson, 1952 ANA:324, L. Belinger. (4) Thomas L. Smith estate:698. (5) One other seen in a dealer's stock about 1961 — same as last?

Silver Dollar. B-1. Normal date, not recut. Rev. Die file marks or the like fill most of shield except the northwest sector of white stripes at left. Two arrows join. Line slants down to r. through azure at r., ending at its lower r. corner. Striae mostly

extending northeast. Faint cracks through ON and TED (not constant?). Struck before the business strikes from these or the B-2 dies, therefore original. Byron Reed estate, Omaha City Library. This rev. recurs on B-2 business strikes, which have same obv. as *B-3 below. The Steckler (\$5000) and Garrett:267 (\$6250 to "X") pieces have not been available for examination.

— *B-3. Base of 0 double punched. Die file marks nearly horizontally below zero. Rev. of the 1840-49 proofs. Perfect and later with heavy crack through base of date, the cracked die coins sometimes with unnatural high knife-rims. (1) Boyd, WGC:141, Adolph Friedman, 1946 ANA:1330. (2) F. J. Schaefer, ca. 1942, Phila. Estate. Perfect die. (3) Newcomer, Lohr:860. (4) Geiss:345, Amon Carter Sr. & Jr. (5) Cass, "Empire":1734. (6) Dr. Clifford Smith:1185. (7) 1974 ANA:22 at \$4000, cost \$4750. The last three may represent two or three of those earlier mentioned. The above listing excludes the obvious restrikes; see *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*, below.

Silver-mhonor proof sets. (1) Phila. Mint, 1850, Alexandre Vattemare, Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. I would like to check die varieties here, as that would establish which ones are unquestioned originals. (2) Stickney:1794, dollar and half cent proofs, remainder unc., ex mint in 1850, probably broken up since. (3) H. P. Smith:1240, complete. (4) William Hesslein (the dealer who vanished mysteriously in the twenties) had one in 1923, according to the late Floyd Starr, who saw it; was this the H. P. Smith set? (4) McCoy:379, "five pieces," apparently no copper, possibly same as one of last two.

Gold Dollar, Quarter Eagle, Half Eagle, Eagle. [1+] Unknown, though at least one of each must have been struck in proof for the set made up for the Congressional Committee on the Library, per Patterson letter 9/26/50.

Double Eagle. [2+] Large coronet beads, Y recut, different hub from 1849; continued through 1858 on business strikes from all mints. (1) J. B. Longacre estate, 1870:178, at a then astonishing \$27, "from the first dies used for the double eagle." (2) Dr. Green:719 (at a then extraordinary \$315), which was questioned, and which I have never seen — though the price reportedly realized was fantastic for the time, well after the postwar boom in gold had faded away. Another was in the gold set mentioned above.

Date logotypes on double eagles, 1850-73, are the same as those for silver dollars; afterwards they match those used for trade dollars, through 1885, and in later years they are distinctive to the denomination.

Gold proof sets. One was made up for the Congressional Committee on the Library; untraced. Complete proof sets. Unknown.

ny

1850



1849 Gold Dollar. Closed wreath. Ex Landau coll.

— Type IV. Large head, with L, coronet point nearer r. star; closed wreath; *B. IV-1, date very thin, no recutting, base of 8 weak, delicate wreath and berry stems. (1) Landau: 682. (2) Texas private collection, ex Grant Pierce: 990. (3) Kagin 5/13/46, Phila. Estate, carelessly made, cleaned.

Quarter Eagle, Half Eagle, Eagle. Unknown.



1849 Double Eagle. Ex Franklin Peale, Coiner, Dec. 22, 1849; Mint Director R.M. Patterson; Mint Cabinet, to Smithsonian Institution.

Double Eagle. Adopted type, but not the identical hub used for the 1850 coins. (Positions of LIBERTY with respect to beads above differ from those on 1850-58 coins, though JBL is below curls; cheek in slightly higher relief; stars in slightly different positions with respect to denticles. Specifically: small beads above LIBERTY: that above I centered; 6th star points to a denticle; no recutting on Y; JBL not far to r. under curl as in 1850-58 coins.) Date as on cents. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint collection, from Director Patterson, Dec. 22, 1849, from Franklin Peale, Coiner. This is a brilliant proof marred by several ob. field nicks. (2) Unknown private collector, ex Stephen K. Nagy (protégé of J. W. Haseltine), ex estate of William M. Meredith, Secretary of the Treasury (1849), presented to Meredith by Mint Director Robert Maskell Patterson. The photograph in the Nagy estate indicates that it is a gem proof. Others are known to have been made at the time by Peale, on an old screw press still used in the 20th century for making proofs, but their whereabouts are at present unknown. A brass gilt specimen from the original dies was made surreptitiously for R. Coulton Davis, but this piece too has disappeared, last being seen in the Woodside collection (1892). Why more specimens were not struck in various metals cannot even be guessed.

Complete proof sets. Unknown.



1850 Half Cent. Ex Ryder coll.

Half Cent. Small berries only from now on. Two microscopic rev. vars., those of business strikes. About a dozen known, equally divided. Brobston's was double struck at date, later LM 3/68:155, 6/71:541. "Dupont": 1110 had the first reverse (heavier letters).

Cent. N-9. Weak date, base of 0 away from border, small dot (die chip) below eye; die file marks within ONE CENT. (1) Mehl, Clapp, ANS. (2) Hines, Sheldon, Ernest Henderson, "Sheraton," T. James Clarke: 359. (3) Reported.



1850 Cent. N-11. Ex French, Clarke, Carson colls.

— N-11. Stronger date, base of 0 double cut (as on many other proofs of this date), and very near border; date slants slightly down, tops of 185 close to device though successively less so. (1) Crawford (Steigerwalt 5/13/1894): 527, Beckwith: 110, S. H. Chapman, J. C. Morgenthau: 7/27/39: 774, Phila. Estate. (2) Newcomb 11: 747, Floyd Starr, N.Y. private coll. (3) Dr. French as "Andrews 12", T. James Clarke: 361, apparently W. L. Carson, LM 2/72: 74. (4) W. F. Morgan: 374, Mehl, T. James Clarke: 360. (5) Specimen offered by W. F. Webb to Homer Downing, July 3, 1941. One other reported.

Half Dime. *V-2. High date, 185 touch base, 0 barely free, shield point nearer tip than left upright of 1, skirt pendant a little left of tip of 5, left base of 1 over left edge of dentil. Rev. Often with line (clash mark?) at TES. (1) Valentine, exhibited ANS 1914, pictured in his half dime book. (2) Bullowa, May 1952. (3) Philip G. Straus estate, privately sold. (4) NN 34: 463, impaired. (5) Brand, NN, Numisma July 1954. At least one other seen. Neil: 1628 and Golden 1: 910 may be this variety. W. L. Carson's was unchecked.

— "Not in V. Low date slants up, shield point slightly left of upright, left base of 1 over space but

1822	92	23500
1821	81	4300
1827	72	1600
1829	84	5780

011.33.1.47.03.75.27

(72-1115)

1.

- Je vous remercie beaucoup de m'offrir l'opportunité de voir cette collection importante, et d'écrire ^{un article au} ce sujet.
- ⑥ September entre le 4 et le 20 ^{out 4-8} convenable [11-20]
- livre de la collection d'Alexandre Vattemare
 - Est-ce que la Bib en a une copie ?
 - Voulez-vous que je vous ^{en} envoie une reproduction ?
- Le petit livre parle d'une collection de 381 ~~monnaies~~ monnaies + médailles, mais la lettre parle d'entre 120 et 150. ^{just the coins} Add there....
~~Souvenez-vous~~ Y a-t-il une liste des monnaies et médailles qui restent maintenant ?
- ... je ne suis spécialiste que d'une catégorie des ~~monnaies~~ monnaies. Puis-je amener avec moi deux collaborateurs très connus sur les autres catégories, pour ~~me~~ écrire le meilleur article possible sur la collection ?
 - Jean Lafaurie ^{vivant}
 - Georges Le Rider "

LARGE CENTS AND OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Coin #1 is a Sheldon 1 chain amorie in detail. It is probably a Vf on the reverse, for example. Each time a link overlaps another link there is a clear line and a clear separation between the two links. However, the coin is somewhat corroded and the reverse, in particular, has a series of obviously intentional edge cuts, almost evenly spaced around the entire circumference. The obverse lacks these cuts, but it has other marks and a portion even appears to be a little lacquered or has some other substance on it.

Coin #2 is a Sheldon 3 and approximately Vf condition. It is relatively clean with only the normal amount of minor scratches that one would expect for a coin in that grade.

Coin #3 is a Sheldon 9 in strong Vf condition with only slight scratches and defects.

Coin #4 is a Sheldon 14 nearly Vf as to detail but with slight fine roughness to the planchet. There are a number of chicken-track type marks on the obverse similar to some that are found on half cent planchets of this era.

Coin #7 is a 1794 half dime in photograde Vf condition.

Coin #8 is a 1794 large cent Sheldon 70 in strong very good condition, with the average amount of little nicks and gouges. Nothing super serious. There is another 1794 large cent from a different collection. It is a Sheldon 40. The obverse might very well be grade Vf as to photograde wear although it has some nicks. The reverse is clean but shows virtually no ribbing-all but a couple of leaves.

Coin #10 is a Talbot-Alleman Lee token with a moderate amount of wear. From another collection not listed in Vattermare is a \$10 gold piece dated 1795 without much wear. Most of the bust does show at least faintly. There is a slight edge nick on the reverse at 6 o'clock. The obverse also has only a slight amount of wear and is somewhat prooflike, as is the reverse. Also from a different collection is a \$5 gold piece. It has more wear than the \$10 piece, with some adjustment marks on the obverse, although most hair detail shows. The reverse has only a few breast feathers showing and none on the legs. The wingtip feathers are strong; there are a few slight scratches. This coin is also somewhat prooflike.

Coin #13 is a 1795 half dollar; flowing hair. In the strong Vf to almost Ef condition.

Coin #14 is a 1795 half dime in Vf condition.

Coin #15 is a 1795 large cent; variety 76A lettered edge. The amount of detail present almost exactly fits the photograde description of Vf20. There are only a few light scratches. However, unfortunately, there is an enormous hard semi-puncture attempt at the 'e' of United which has actually bent the coin up from the obverse and all the way to the rim. The dent is completely circular and the diameter is approximately equal to the width of one of the letters on the reverse.

Coin #16 is a 1795 large cent S76b with a plain edge. It has slightly more wear than the preceding coins; slightly more roughness to the planchet but, of course, it lacks the attempted puncture. There are also more scratches and marks on the obverse. Probably fine as to detail before subtracting for the defects.

Coin #22 is a 1796 quarter. Reverse meets the photograde description of fine, with the obverse slightly better.

Coin #23 is a 1796 dime. In condition between photograde Vg and photograde fine. There is a strong die crack through the 1, 7, and 9 of the date.

Coin #23 Bis is a 1796 half-dime in Ef condition with a prooflike planchet.

Coin #24 is a 1796 liberty cap large cent. Sheldon 89. The condition by photograde is probably a strong fine with a moderate number of nicks and scratches.

Coin #25 is a draped bust 1796 large cent; Sheldon 119. It is not pocohantas as said in the Vatterate catalogue, of course. The condition as to wear is at least photograde Ef, but there are somewhat more marks than there should be for a high-grade coin.

Coin #26 is a 1797 half-dime. The amount of detail is Vf or so on the obverse but not much better than very good on the reverse. On the obverse there appear to be clash marks in front of the face. On the reverse there is a small punch mark on the breast of the eagle and a clear die crack through the 'e' of United.

Coin #27 is a 1797 large cent; Sheldon #135. The amount of detail wear showing is Ef 40ish on the obverse and Vf on the reverse. Slightly more roughness to the planchet than one would like for a coin in this grade.

Coin #30 is a 1798 dime in strong, fine condition. The obverse fields are quite dark.

Coin #31 is a 1798 large-cent. It appears to be a Sheldon 146, but the description differs from the description in Sheldon in some ways. The 'er' letters are widely separated. The top of the hair is unfinished. One can't see the second wave as a triangular island nearly touching the bottom of 'e'. Juncture of heron forward is below the right side of the upright of 't' if one holds that letter vertically, not the left side as indicated in Sheldon. The date does not appear to be particularly close to the hair in curl, although that is a matter of interpretation. On the reverse, the fraction bar is short as described. It does not seem to be particularly distant from the zero, and the long point to the left stem is not evident. Also, the leaf that is supposed to be heavily merged with the back of 'c' in cent does not seem quite to touch the 'c'. The leaf which touches the right foot of 't' in cent has its point to the left of the pendant rather than to the right of the pendant as in Sheldon. The point of the lower left leaf is where Sheldon says it is, but the point of the high leaf is under the left hand edge of 's' rather than between the 'e' and 's'. This will take more examination. After closer examination, it seems clear to me that is reverse 'e' of 1798, although I am not able to match the obverse with either obverse 5 or obverse 9. There is another 1798 large cent-Sheldon 164. Although only one is listed in the Vatterate brochure, two are present in the tray with no indication that either one came from a different collection. As to where this coin is, it is somewhere between very good and fine according to photograde. However, it is heavily nicked and scratched and would, undoubtedly, net out considerably lower. Also in the tray, not part of the Vatterate collection, but listed as part of the Beistegui is a 1799 \$10 gold piece in very close to mint condition, if not actually mint state.

Coin #33 is a 1799 large cent, Sheldon 189. The coin is photograde fine as far as details being present, but overall is porous and has a substantial number of nicks and scratches.

For a while we will now concentrate on the large cents only, and skip the other denominations, which I may come back to, time permitting.

Coin #35 is the 1800 overdate, Sheldon 196. It is extremely fine photograde as to wear with a great deal of mint red showing. However, there are a number of heavy carbon and/or corrosion spots on the obverse and reverse. Some of this might be removable. There is also another very low grade 1800 overdate, which also appears to be a 196, although I haven't spent the time to fully attribute it.

5

Coin #37 is an 1801 Sheldon 224. It is at least extremely fine as to wear and in lovely condition with substantial mint red over the entire obverse and reverse surfaces. There is in the tray also a very low grade 1801 large cent.

Coin #38 is an 1802 large cent-Sheldon 236. It is in Ef condition with considerable mint red on the obverse and more subdued red on the reverse. There is another 1802 in the tray which is a Sheldon 232, probably Ef as to wear. It is dark with a few scratches on the obverse and a slightly finely porous planchet on the reverse.

Coin #41 is an 1803 large cent-Sheldon 258. Condition somewhere around fine. Actually this is not coin #41; this is marked as "from the collection of Shoshlead (sp?)," and there is another 1803 in the tray which is probably the one that came from the Vattermare Collection, and it is listed as coin #41. It is low grade and dark and I have not bothered to attribute it.

Coin #44 is an 1804 large cent; probably very good as to wear but considerably nicked and scratched.

Coin #48 is an 1805 large cent, Sheldon 267. Around Vf condition. From the Bistage (sp?) Collection, the tray also contains an 1804 half eagle in mint state or very near mint state condition. There are two large cents altered to read 1815. One as described in the catalogue, coin #71 is indeed a cent of 1825 crudely altered to read 1815. However, coin #70 is listed in the catalogue as having been produced in England and introduced into the United States. I don't think it is that complicated. I think it is a much better job of an alteration, but I believe it is a 1813 large cent, Sheldon 293, skillfully altered to read 1815. There are some higher grade large cents now appearing in this tray and I will comment on those. The 1817 wide date, 13 stars from the collection Chaslin, is nearly mint state with some amount of red on each side. The 1821 I believe to be a proof. It has prooflike surfaces, particularly on the obverse. A good deal of mint red, even though it has some slight signs of handling, cabin friction, or whatever. Very sharply struck with the denticles high, the stars full. It has quite square rim. Strong stars, many of which have signs of double cutting. Letters, the tops of which are quite flat. Sharp hairlines. All of the other signs which seem to go with these early proofs. The 1822, coin #79 is at least Au. A lot of mint red. It has some reflectivity on the surface. The denticles are strong and high. However, the stars are not nearly as fully struck up as on the preceding coin. The 1823, coin #80, seems genuine to me. Not contraband as indicated in the brochure. There seems to be double-cutting on the upper curl of the 3. It is about photograde Vf, but has overall slightly red color, which seems unnatural for the amount of wear. The 1828 is near mint state with a great deal of red, particularly on the reverse. The 1830 is also mint state. It has a noticeable carbon spot to the left of the nose. The reverse is glittering red with mirror-like surface, and could be a proof. The denticles are very high. There is a die crack through the date in the first four stars on the right. There is another one that starts just to the left of the date and goes through the first three stars on the left. Also noteworthy in this tray, from the collection Count de Bestiguy (sp?), an 1810 half eagle in near mint state; an 1826 half-dollar that is very prooflike or proof, strongly struck and glittering surfaces.

The next tray has a number of interesting coins which I will take in order. From the collection of the Count de Bestiguy, an 1804 half eagle. Glittering mirror-like surfaces. Could certainly be a proof. Also from the collection of the Count de Bestiguy, an 1838 eagle, very prooflike with the proof surfaces showing clearly inside the stripes of the shield. All of the lines in the stars show, but they don't rise to a full on the high parts of the stars. An 1839 quarter eagle is mint state and has prooflike surfaces as well on the obverse and reverse. There is also an 1839 half dollar which is glitteringly prooflike. A similar 1839 quarter. An 1839 dime, mint state, but not prooflike as the larger coins are. The 1839 half dime is more prooflike than the dime, but less so than the two larger coins. Four of these coins came from the collection marked "Z 2128." The 1841 large cent could be a proof, although it somewhat dull and toned on the obverse and glittering red on the reverse. The 1842 large cent is also

4

red on the reverse, but less glittering than the 1841 as far as proof surfaces are concerned. The 1845 half dollar has some prooflike surfaces, but I do not think it is strongly struck-up enough to be a proof, although it has some wire edge on both sides and extremely square rims. Several of the other large cents in the 1840's show substantial amounts of mint red.

In the next tray, there are also a few interesting coins. The 1851 dollar gold coin in proof is one of them. The 1850 large cent proof is a Newcomb 11. The half dime appears to be the variety which Breen begins to describe at the bottom of page 91 of his Encyclopedia of Proof Coins and which continues at the top of page 92. The dime is not B5; it is another variety described in Breen's encyclopedia. It is (The 8?) high, close to the device above, although not touching. The right hand point of the 5 comes very close to touching. The point of the shield is slightly to the left hand side upright of 1. Zero is placed slightly lower than the other three digits of the date. There appears to be an engraver's scratch from the top of the lower right seraph of the 'e' in dine to the adjoining leaf. This coin is unquestionably a proof. The quarter dollar in the tray is not a proof. It is a somewhat worn coin. There is a space for another coin which is marked "ashonge du desuite" (sp?); eligible; "exchange of that date." 1814/87. The half dollar appears to be closest in description to the third of the three varieties described by Breen, which he calls the 'high date.' However, I don't see the double punching on the base of the zero. This is clearly a proof. From the Bisteg collection, there is a proof 1854 \$3 gold piece. There is also an octagonal quarter dollar in gold dated 1856 from the Bisteg collection. It is somewhat prooflike.

We come now to the tray of very large coins. The first one is a continental currency vigeo (?) linking all of the states; could well be in pewter, dated 1776 in very nice condition-perhaps mint condition. Two rr's in currency and a slight spot of corrosion. There are two 1795 silver dollars. One is the flowing hair with quite a bit of wear. The other is the 15 star draped bust with the bust quite far to the left. I don't remember whether that is Bollinder 14 or Bollinder 15, but it has only a slight amount of wear. Most of the (fedage) showing on the breast and leg. The 1796 dollar is well worn; the 1798 less so. There is an 1836 Goldbrecht (sp?) flying eagle with prooflike surfaces, showing no signs of circulation.

From the Z 2128 collection, there is an 1839 seated liberty dollar which is proof or prooflike. The 1850 \$20 gold piece is clearly a proof, with an extremely strong strike; a small amount of wire rim on the reverse, but a few minor spots of rub. The 1850 silver dollar in proof appears to be the Bollinder 3 described by Walter Breen. The base of the zero is double punched. However, the die file marks are not visible below the zero. The obverse has a pronounced wire rim all the way around, although there are no cracks through the base of the date.

Next coin from the collection from the Count of Besteg is an octagonal \$50 gold piece dated 1852. It has a slight amount of wear.

From the Z 2128 collection there is a somewhat prooflike trade dollar, in perhaps Au condition, dated 1873. From the same collection there is an 1875S trade dollar in very near mint state condition with a crack through the words 'trade dollar.'

Now talking about some of the coins Eric inquired. Item 37, the libernatus (sp?) piece, does not have a period before or after 'excelsior.' The upper left serif of the first 'e' of excelsior is joined to the baseline above it. The coin has been well circulated, but has strong detail. However, there is some prominent edge knocks on the reverse. The coin is slightly off center to the left on the obverse. The beading shows from around 11 o'clock to around 5 o'clock, from not the left of that.

Coin #39; I can't be sure about this coin, of course. The imprint of the eagle in the 'eb' initials in the legend eplurablasunam (sp??). The two rows of circumferential dots and some stars are all quite strong and bold. This side of the coin has uniformly red fields, although the devices are dark. It would appear to be copper, although it could be an electrotype in copper. The other side of the coin seems to have no devices of its own. It is either corroded or has strong vertical lines which were part of the planchet. There is some shadow of the shield on this side. A shadow of the 'eb' punch might indicate that it was a struck piece. The coin is exceedingly thin. It is quite reasonable that these shadows of the devices on one side would come through and show on the other side which had no devices of its own. The edges are very rough and crumbly, but show copper color underneath the crumbles, as does the unstruck side of the coin. There is not really enough of the coin showing on the edge to be certain as to whether or not it is an electrotype. However, in some spots where no crumbling exists there are circumferential lines which look like they could be file marks.

Item #57 is interesting. The obverse is dated 1792. It has the legend G. Washington, President I. It is in silver, or appears to be. On the reverse there are, indeed, fifteen stars above the eagle. The legend says "United States of America." The design of the eagle is clearly similar to the reverse of item #55. The legends are different; the number of stars are different. The wreath and arrows in the talons of the eagle are not quite the same, neither are the shapes of the legs. The shield is somewhat larger. There are no clouds as there are on item #55, and, of course, no date. It is just a general arrangement of an eagle with heroldic (sp?) wings, a shield, and some stars, that is similar on the two coins. Item #57 is quite thin. The edges are crumbled, and there are some circumferential ridges and valleys which certainly could indicate that the coin is an electrotype. I am just experienced enough in looking at these coins to know for sure.

* * * * *

Missing 1796, ~~1802~~, 1831

1842, ~~1846~~, 1847

~~1851~~, ~~2~~, ~~3~~, ~~4~~, ~~6~~, ~~7~~

Half Cents

5 1793

6 Wash. taken "half penny"

9 1794

17/18 1795 LE
1795 PE

28 1797

36 1800

42 1803

45 1804

49 1805

52 1806

56 1807

58 1808

60 1809

62 1810

64 1811

83 1825

85 1826

89 1828

92 1829

98 1832

101 1833

103 1834

106 1835

109 1836

125 1840

127 1841

130 1843

132 1844

135 1845

140 1848

144 1849

156 1850

164 1855

LARGE CENTS

1	1793 Chain Ameri.	75	1819
2	1793 Chain America	77	1820
3	1793 Wreath	78	1821
4	1793 Lib Cap	79	1822
8	1794	80	(1823 "none minted must be diam. counterfeit)
10	1794 TAL	81	1824
15	1795 LE	82	1825
16	1795 PE	84	1826
19	(1795 Wash token)	86	1827
20	(" " ")	88	1828
24	1796 Lib Cap	91	1829
25	1796 Draped Bust	93	1830
27	1797	96	1831
31	1798	97	1832
33	1799	100	1833
35	1800	102	1834
37	1801	105	1835
38	1802	108	1836
41	1803	116	1837
44	1804	118	(1837 Fauchet)
48	1805	121	1838
51	1806	123	1839
55	1807	124	1840
57	1808	126	1841
59	1809	128	1842
61	1810	129	1843
63	1811	131	1844
65	1812	134	1845
66	1813	136	1846
68	1814	137	1847
		139	1848
		143	1849
		155	1850
		157	(1850 hole in center pattern)
70	(1815 Birmingham counterfeit)	161	1853
71	(1815 altered 1825)	162	1854
		163	1855
		165	1856
		166	(1856 Flying Eagle pattern)
		167	1857
		168	1857 Flying Eagle?
		169	1859 Indian Head "Pocahontas"

~~COPPER & SILVER & GOLD~~
NON-COPPER

7	1794	half dime	112	1837	10¢ bust
11	1795	dollar 15 stars Fl. Hair	113	1837	" Seated Lib
12	1795	" Draped Bust	114	1837	1/2 10¢ bust
13	1795(?)	half-dollar	115	1837	" Seated Lib
14	1795(?)	half dime	117	1838	3¢ pattern Feuchtl
21	1796	#1	119	1838	25¢
22	1796	25¢	120	1838	1/2 10¢ stars
23	1796	10¢	122	1839	50¢
23b	1796	1/2 10¢	133	1845	50¢
26	1797	"	138	1848	10¢
29	1798	#1 (new reverse)	141	1849	25¢
30	1798	10¢	142	1849	1/2 10¢
32	1799	#1	145	1850	20 gold
34	1800	1/2 10¢	146	1850?	10 " "
39	1803	#5 gold ("false")	147	" ?	5 " "
40	1803	#2 1/2 " (")	148	" ?	250 " "
43	1804	10¢	149	" ?	1 " "
46	1805	25¢	150	" ?	1 silver
47	1805	10¢	151	1850	50¢
50	1806	50¢	152	"	25¢
53	1807	"	153	"	10¢
54	1807	25¢	154	"	1/2 10¢
67	1814	10¢	158	"	3¢ pattern
69	1815	25¢	159	1851	3¢ silver
76	1820	10¢	160	1853	10¢ 1853
87	1828	25¢			
90	1829	1/2 10¢			
94	1831	50¢			
95	1831	25¢			
99	1833	1/2 10¢			
104	1835	10¢			
107	1836	#1 pattern Gobrecht			
110	1837	50¢			
111	1837	25¢			

TO: R. TETTENHORST

Charles Davis
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Wenham, MA 01984

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Breen: Encyclopedia of Half Cents	55.00	Shipping	13.50
Cohen: Half Cents	32.00	MA Sales Tax	
Sheldon: Penny Whimsy	20.00	Net Invoice	\$142.50
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Cabinet des Medailles
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TETT -
These will be
shipped surface in the
next day or two. CHR would
(\$50.00) Thank you very much for
your consideration.
Sharon.

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will rec.
bill

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TO: CHARLES DAVIS
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FROM: R. TETTENHORST
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DATE: October 16, 1995

The four books (two Breen, one Cohen, and one Sheldon) should be shipped to:

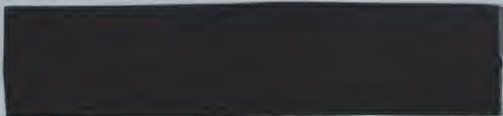
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Thanks,
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FRANCE

- Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of U.S. Half Cents
- Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of Proof Coins
- Roger Cohen's U.S. Half Cents-second edition
- William Sheldon's Penny Whimsy

-----Bernard Edison



New comb

Obverses

1821

No	Left edge of curl	Point of 6 th star.	Remarks.
①	over inner curve of 2.	SL	Close date
2	slightly left of center of 2.	SL	Wide date

Reverses 1821

No	Rev.	6 th	13 th	15 th	23 rd	10 berry
1	A	SPC	NR	NL	NC	to left of center of right base of A.
2	B	PC	NR	C	PC	to right of center of right base of A.

N1 A1

Star slightly left; left edge of curl over inner curve of 2; L recur below its top, large T above tops of R and Y; without inner circle near border.

Rev. A. SPC. NR. NL. NC.

Legend near wreath; tenth berry to left of center of right base of A; bases of AME very close.

This variety is found with obverse and reverse cracks. On reverse a delicate crack from top rim between S and O downward crossing wreath, N in ONE, touching lower right end of E in CENT, crossing ribbon to rim below. Another from rim over I in UNITED through that letter crossing wreath, ribbon, wreath and through C to rim over I in AMERICA. Later the obverse develops a heavy crack from rim over first star through second and third to rim halfway between third and fourth stars. R²

Brilliant proofs coined from these dies before becoming cracked.

N2 A2

Star slightly left; left edge of curl slightly left of center of 2; bases of LIBERTY on different levels; top of large T even with tops of R and Y; inner line near border; diagonal line in field between first star and figure 1.

Rev. B. PC NR C. PC

Legend distant from wreath; tenth berry to right of center of right base of A; bases of AMERI close and evenly spaced. R²

N2 1/2 -

Plain double outline from coronet to chest.

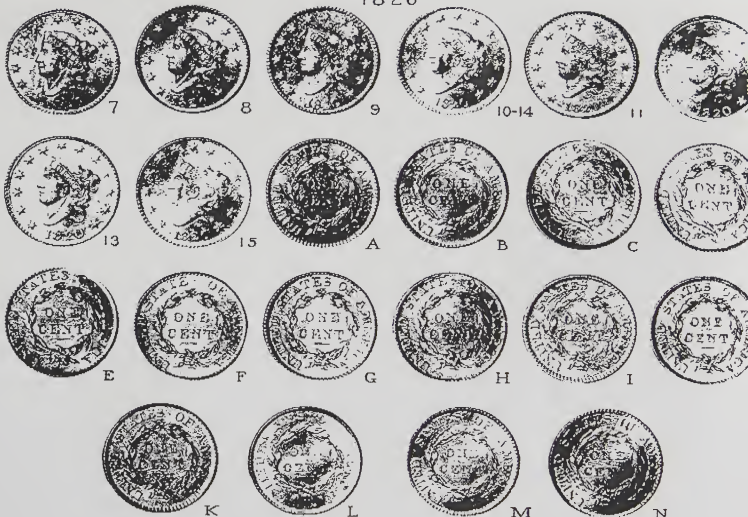
Rev. B. R⁴.

No cracks obv or rev. Very square edges. No denticles. Reflective surfaces but somewhat pitted on rev. Cannot see any traces of inner circle near obv. Dents. Evidence of shift between multiple blows on dents from K11 to K3 (Obv.) and stars 4-8. Also Rev Dents K12 to K5.

Newcomb

PLATE III

1820



1821



1822

1822





No IC



Square-serif Letters

Obverse 1: Stars 2,7,9,11,12 point between dentils, star 5 nearly does. Nice early-strike examples show only the faintest traces of inner circle remnants at left and from below 21 to the last star, though most show none at all. This is the so-called "close date", but the date-width variation between the two varieties of this year is extremely minimal. Sixth star points a hair below the coronet tip. LIB-ERTY has the top of T well above R. A tiny center dot appears just in front of the ear.

Reverse A: This die appears on numbers 1 of 1821 and 14 of 1822. Key leaves point SPC,R,NL,NC. All letters are the old square-serif style discontinued in 1819 (diagnostic). The legend is quite near the wreath. In UNITED, the I is below N and the D is below E. STATES has the first S high and the second low. Feet of AME nearly touch. C in AMERICA is low, tilted left, and very close to the leaf below. Tiny or missing center dot.

Striking Variations: Light dentil-fusing develops between ★6-7. This spreads to ★5-7 as a horizontal reverse crack develops through the first I, wreath, ribbon, wreath, C, to the rim over the final I. This is followed by an obverse crack from the rim over ★1, through the outer points of ★2-3 to the rim before ★4. This crack grows heavy. Finally a near vertical bisecting crack grows between S-O to the left ribbon. This variety has been reported cracked from the rim through ★13 to the hairbun, but I have not seen it thus. Reverse dentilation is usually a shade broader at bottom.

1821 offered as less than full MS. In Proof, this is one of the commonest of all pre-1840 cents. Sale records and current reports tally up to nearly two dozen Proof examples of this variety, though undiscovered overlaps will probably cut this to around twenty or less. Still, it is definitely no more than R6 in Proof. The appearance of a discarded reverse style on this high issue Proof striking is inexplicable.

Discussion: R1+, common in all grades except Mint State. MS(4-6), AU(14-17), XF(several). Many of the XF's I have seen of this variety have been sold as "AU" or "Unc". In fact, rarely is an AU

The two finest non-Proof examples of this variety came from the cornerstone of a Boston building that was built in 1821 and torn down in 1981. The cache consisted of two of this and five of the next variety, being sold as lots 58-64 of the Long Beach II sale of 1981. Gary Fitzgerald bought six of the seven cents, letting Ted Naftzger have the other one. Obviously, this one commands no variety premium.

John D Wright Cent Books

21-2

2



Strong IC

2



B

Century Letters

Obverse 2: Stars 8,10 point between dentils, stars 2,3,4,7,11,13 nearly do. An inner circle shows quite strongly at left, weaker at right, just inside the tips of the dentils. The 2 is well positioned, if anything a touch low. This is the so-called "wide date" of 1821. Sixth star points slightly below the coronet tip. LIBERTY has BE both tilted right and both feet of R high.

Reverse B: This die appears on numbers 2 of 1821 and 12 of 1822. Key leaves point SPC,R-,C,C. I of AMERICA is dotted by a dentil. All letters are well positioned, and are the Century type as found on all 1820 cents and later (excepting only the 1821-A,1822-L die). The legend is away from the wreath. Feet of AM are well apart. N of CENT tilts left. Center dot is tiny or missing.

Striking Variations: Early strikes show a diagonal graver-scratch between the first star and date. This fades as the dentils weaken slightly and the rims begin to dish. The obverse develops minor dentil-fusing between ★6-7.

Discussion: R1, common in all grades but Mint State, and fairly so there. MS(11-27), AU(15+), XF(several). The best four pieces are from the Boston cache (lots 61,64,63,60 — see discussion, variety 1). In spite of the high census for both 1821 varieties, they are still not easy to find in XF or better. And when a high-grade one is offered, it usually sells dearly. I know of anywhere from three to eight Proof examples of number 2. Between the two varieties, 1821 is the most common year for Proof cents before 1840. Neither 1821 variety draws a premium.



Boff

R. TETTENHORST
P. O. Box 14020
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

September 27, 1995

Dr. Philip Ralls
1566 Grandview Drive
Glendale, CA 91201

Dear Phil:

I recently had an opportunity to see a very old collection which has been in firm hands for over one hundred years. It had some interesting half cents in it, which was my reason for taking a look at it.

Also, however, there were a number of large cents which I did my best to identify by Sheldon number. Most of them were common varieties in relatively low grade. There was one 1798 cent of whose attribution I was not certain. It seemed to me to be a S162, but I was not sure. I remembered that I had a friend who probably was pretty good at attributing 1798 large cents, even from a relatively poor photograph, which is all that the owner would provide me with. The coin has somewhat more surface marks than one might expect for the medium amount of wear. Please let me know if you agree with my attribution.

Sincerely,

Tett

R. Tettenhorst

mb

Enclosure

*Dear Tett -
Sorry to take so long.
Yes it is definitely an S162.
Engraved dentils over ER, unfinished hair & date.
Hope you're well.
Phil*

EDISON BROTHERS STORES, INC.
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Comments:

Tom and I think the top page is really what you asked for. However, Tom thought the additional pages would be helpful, also. Marie called back...the nonstop flight does not operate on Friday. You'd have to leave at 11:30 and (I believe she said) make a stop, ultimately arriving in St. Louis at 6:11 p.m. She was going to wait list you in business class. I told her nevermind, I thought you prefer to keep the Saturday flight.

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314 331 7517 TO 54868254-7211115 P.01

SEP 13 1995 13:09 FR #

le 13/09/95 13:09 FR #

fax reçu de 314 331 7517

large (same style 2 as last), 0 smaller; 82 close at tops, 5th star recut, 7th touching border, T-D too low. (1) "Empire" 1308 (C.A. Cass collection), ex S. H. Chapman, Allenburger:753, R.T. McPherson:843. (2) T.J. Clarke: 1245, ex Deetz. Dies show traces of rust.

— Unattributed. Lichtenfels I: 2748, possibly ex Brand.

— Overton 106 = B. 5-E, H-4, C-4. Closely spaced date, flat based 2 without knob, line joins tops of ME, tiny group of rust pits below I in UNITED. Eliasberg collection, no duplicate reported. This reverse was reused on nonproofs of 1820, and on proofs and nonproofs of 1821; apparently the last variety of 1820.

Half Eagle. Type I: *Square based 2, large letters.* Breen I-A, A-4, C-3. 13th star free of curl; D nearly touches denticles, being much lower than 5; top of E in STATES below T-S. Melish: 1945, to "J.W."; Bell II: 598 (1963) at \$1100 may have been this variety; two others seen.

Type II: *Curled curve-based 2, large letters.* B. 3-C, A-6, C-1. Wide date with 18 closer, first T in STATES below S-A, 5 D quite widely spaced. (1) WGC:368, ill. numbered 369; later "Memorable":318. This may have been H.P. Smith:208, numbered 210 on the plate. (2) Melish: 1942 to "J.W.". One is illustrated over G.H. Hall: 1892, evidently a Col. Green coin; possibly one of the two preceding. One other seen, some years ago.

Type III. *Curled 2 as last, small letters.* B. 4-D, A-5, not in C. Base of 8 below 1-2, arrow points to left curve of C and very close. (1) Melish: 1943, to a dealer. (2) Woodin, Newcomer, Green, Farouk. One other seen, some years ago.

Proof sets could have been made up both earlier and later in the year. The earlier ones would have contained the overdate or the N-6 cent, B. 2-B dime, B-1 quarter, Ov. 103 or 108 half dollar, and a Type I or II half eagle. The later ones would have contained the N-13 or N-10 cent, B. 7-H dime, B-2 quarter, Ov. 105 or 106 half dollar, and a Type II or III half eagle. It would not be impossible to assemble a set today; the stumbling blocks would be the lower denominations, not the higher. Occasion for manufacture or distribution of proof sets not recorded, but my own guess is that the earliest ones might have been made up for officials connected with celebrating Alabama's entry into the Union (Dec. 14, 1819), the later ones for Maine's admission in March 1820, or possibly for the bicentennial of the Mayflower landing and/or Pilgrim Fathers' initial settlement in Massachusetts.



1821 Cent. N-1. Ex French, Downing, Clarke colls.

Cent. N-1. Close date, second 1 low; earliest die state, some traces of inner circle visible around obv. border near denticles, not found on production coins for circulation; reverse die perfect. Generally considered to be of extreme rarity, but too many are around to sustain a rating of Rarity 7. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint coll., no. 1200 (these numbers are in the Comparette inventory of 1914), not too kindly handled. (2) French: 249 — T. James Clarke — Homer K. Downing — 1952 ANA Convention sale, to Calif. Specialist. (3) Dr. Thomas Hall — V.M. Brand — Armin Brand — NN 12/58 (pvt. sale) — Helfenstein: 85 (\$2100) — F. E. Knoble — LM 4/70:431. Traces of quadruple impressions at some stars, showing that four blows in a screw press were needed to bring up design to desired sharpness. (4) Atwater: 58 — Leonard Holland — G. Reale, light rim dent. (5) Newcomb II: 542 — F. Starr — ?? (6) V. Brand — T.L. Gaskill — Sloss: 142 — Benedetti — ?? (7) Dr. Hall — V. Brand — Kagin 3/19/46 — Phila. Estate. Double impressions on stars, triple on leaves and letters. (8) J.P. Lyman — Allenburger: 777 — Lee G. Agnew: 729a. (9) Mougey: 133 — Sleicher: 1573 — Beckwith: 59 — Pearl: 269 — H. Bareford. (10) C. Würzbach — Kagin QM3: 1610 (3/64) — Kagin 3/67. (11) Mougey: 134, part red, possibly Bement: 396, possibly (4) or (5) reappearing. (12) Frothingham — J.B. Wilson: 1055, bright red. At least five others reported; possibly the actual number distinguishable is between 12 and 20.

The other variety, N-2 (date wider, 8 low), in repolished state without line from rim to end of bust, is much rarer. (1) Calif. Specialist, ex Kagin 2/47:2320, possibly ex W.F. Morgan: 194, Standish Hall, C. David Pierce, ultimately Winsor: 918. Three others claimed, unverified: Bareford coll.; Stack's 2/45; T.J. Clarke: 180 ex G.J. Bauer, this last another instance of Clarke's wishful thinking.

Dime. Large date as in 1820. Only one seen: Phila. Estate, ex Bluestone 6/25/46:919. Broad dentil at first star; final S much too high. Possibly ex Winsor: 672.

— Small date. Date far to left (final 1 out from under curl), first 1 high and distant, 8th star joins cap, zero too high. Breen 5-E = Clapp 6. Cleneay: 1490;

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF UNITED STATES
LIBERTY SEATED DIMES
1837 - 1891
KAMAL M. AHWASH 1981

1981

1850

(High Date)

Mintage: 1,931,500

R-4



OBVERSE 1:

SP — 6.5

DDB — high — 0.1mm

DH — large — 1.5mm

DW — wide — 5.2mm

REMARKS:

"5" is almost closed. Die crack from back of Liberty's head to star "8".

REVERSE 1:

Perfect Die.

REMARKS:

Die crack from tip of left bow to rim.

NOTE:

Despite the high mintage, the dates in the 50's are not frequently found in, even near, mint state condition. Fully struck coins are certainly the exception.

1850

(High Date, 1 and 8 Touch Base)

R-6



OBVERSE 2:

REMARKS:

All remains the same as Obverse 1 except: SP is 5 and the date is very high. All digits touch base except "5" and "0". The "5" is 0.1mm DDB and open; the "0" is 0.2mm DDB.

REVERSE 2:

Perfect Die.

1850

(Very High Date — All Digits Touch Except "0")

R-4



OBVERSE 3:

SP — 4.5

DDB — all touch — "0" is
less than 0.1mm

DH — large — 1.5mm

DW — wide — 5.2mm

REMARKS:

"5" is closed. Shield tip is directly over center of "1". Pendant over right part of flag of "5". Stars 6, 8, 9, 12 and 13 have chips. Stars 4, 5 and 6 have faint cracks to rim. Marks from non-polishing show between rim and stars 7, 8 and head.

REVERSE 3:

REMARKS:

Die cracks from "UN" in UNITED to rim at right. Base of left upright of "N" touches diagonal line of "N".

1850



MINTAGE: 955,000

PROOFS: 7-8

VARIETIES: V-1 through V-5 represent various date placements. Also, the obverse of V-1 muled to reverse of V-2 (Breen) and now assigned V-6; the obverse of V-5 and a reverse with no die cracks and H in HALF joined to the leaf (Breen) and now assigned V-7.

The V-3 reverse die is distinguished by a die scratch from the rim between D in UNITED and S in STATES to leaf that almost touches the Berry under D.

The V-1 comes strongly struck with nearly a full head and shield and with a well defined toe. Date is boldly punched, and the pendant lines up with the right side of the flag of the 5. The shield points to near the top of the flag of the 1. Fully defined dentils, obverse and reverse. There are die polishing marks evident in the field near dentils between 5 and 6 o'clock. There may be some weakness on the reverse at the lower right ribbon of the bow.

The V-5 is also well struck. The pendant lines up with the right end of the 5's flag, and the shield points to the upper end of the 1's flag. All stars are well defined. Some reverses may show minor weakness at the knot of the bow.

SCARCITY: Common date except for V-1 and V-4. The V-1 and V-4 are fairly scarce, and the V-2 comes in proof only.

Rarity Rating: R2 in all grades, except for V-1 and V-4 which are R3.

Total PCGS/NGC/ANACS = 114 (Ranking 57/77).

LSCC Survey Ranking: 66 (18/39).

VALUE:	Red Book 1947	Red Book 1991	CW Trends 1963	CW Trends 1991
G	—	5.00	1.50	5.25
F	.75	9.00	3.00	8.00
EF	—	40.00	—	46.00
MS60	3.00	250.00	12.50	255.00
MS63	—	—	—	470.00

COMMENTS: Comes well struck with nice luster.

1993

1840 Liberty Seated Dollar

at the Mint in 1838) acquired Proof strikings. These probably were purchased for face value.

In true Mint State the 1840 is exceedingly rare, and very few have a claim to MS-63 or higher grade. In 1982, Bruce Amspacher, an especially astute observer of the numismatic scene, stated that he knew of only three pieces that could be called MS-65, a grade that today would be equal to MS-63 or so.¹ Chris Napolitano reported handling two MS-63 coins ("average for the grade") and one MS-62 piece ("white and frosty") over a long period of years.²

Proofs: Perhaps the odd mintage figure of 61,005 represents 61,000 business strikes plus five Proof or presentation coins, but this is unknown. However, more than five Proofs were eventually struck.

Conventional wisdom, as published by Walter H. Breen, suggests that restrikes were made of certain Proof dollars bearing the 1840 dates, and of other dollars in the 1840s, but I have seen no evidence of this in my own studies. For purposes of the present book, I take the stand that all Proof dollars 1840-1850 are originals, struck in or about the dates indicated on the coins. I believe that a Proof reverse die was kept on hand and used each year during this period, in the same manner that the large-berries half cent reverse die was used annually to coin half cents during the same period. For a different view, see Walter H. Breen's Proof coin *Encyclopedia*.

Proofs sold in sets: Proof dollars of this date were issued in sets (containing all denominations from the half cent to the silver dollar) as well as, apparently, singly. The Proof 1840 dollar in the Richard B. Winsor Collection sale (S. Hudson and Henry Chapman, December 16-17, 1895) was said to have been obtained from an unspecified Mint employee in the year of issue; the coin realized an exceptional \$100, multiples of its putative value in 1895. A complete 1840 Proof set is in the National Numismatic Collection in the Smithsonian Institution, and, like its brethren in the same holding, was cleaned with silver polish before the year 1900. Apropos of this situation, Farran Zerbe contributed this comment to *The Numismatist*, August 1903:

[During a recent visit to the Philadelphia Mint] I found many of the silver Proof coins of late years partially covered with a white coating. On inquiry I learned that an over zeal-

ous attendant during the last vacation months when the numismatic room was closed took it upon himself to clean the tarnished coins, purchased some metal polish at a department store, and proceeded with his cleaning operation. Later, a coating of white appeared on the coins, which was now slowly disappearing. I expressed my displeasure at this improper treatment of Proof coins, and the custodian explained, "That is nothing. I have been here eight years and they have been cleaned three or four times in my time."

Zerbe went on to protest that should such cleaning of Proof coins continue, in the future the Mint Collection would consist of nothing except plain planchets and badly worn coins!

Number of Proof dollars made: The number of Proof dollars struck was nowhere recorded (nor were Proof mintages recorded for most other dates of the next two decades), but it was probably on the order of 20 to 40 coins. Probably slightly more of this date were struck than of 1841 or 1842, both of which seem rarer today.

Many if not most "Proofs" offered on the coin market years ago were not Proofs but were prooflike business strikes, often really just AU or barely Mint State. Thus, the scholar seeking to use auction appearances of "Proofs" in old catalogues, especially those published before about 1950, will find much of the data useless, unless supported by surrounding evidence (such as specifics concerning purchase from the Mint, inclusion in a Proof set of a particular year, etc.).

Varieties³

Business strikes:

1-3. Normal Date: Breen-5425. At least three obverse dies were used to make business strikes. The details of these have not been delineated in numismatic literature. The reverse of the American Numismatic Society specimen has a die crack from the rim to the right edge of L in DOL. to the bottom arrowhead.

Proofs:

1. Proof issue. Obverse: All from one obverse die; the date about centered, shield point about over left upright, left base of I over space. Reverse: There are two defects, joined and appearing as projections, extending from the center of the right side of the final A in AMERICA. In the shield, each of the three

¹ Article, "Liberty Seated Dollars," in the Monthly Summary, *Coin Dealer Newsletter*, July-August, 1982.

² Letter to the author, June 26, 1992.

³ Many of the die descriptions are from Walter H. Breen and, in many instances are adapted from *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Proof Coins, 1722-1899*, reprint edition by Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc., 1989, and from *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*, Doubleday, 1988. Other comments and die descriptions are by Q. David Bowers.

elements in the seven vertical shield stripes extends through the horizontal line above, the only exception being the rightmost element of the fourth vertical stripe; the rightmost element of the first stripe extends farthest upward of any element and is the only element to touch the third horizontal stripe

above. This die was used on other dollars 1840-1850 and is referred to in the present text as the Reverse of 1840-1850.

Walter H. Breen suggests that restrikes were made from the above die pair, with the reverse showing resurfacing (lapping).

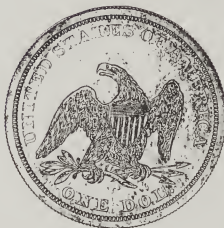
1840 Liberty Seated: Market Values

Year	VF	EF	AU	Unc.	Proof
1860	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$5.00
1865	1.25	1.25	1.50	2.00	9.00
1870	1.25	1.25	1.50	2.00	10.00
1875	1.25	1.50	1.75	2.00	11.00
1880	1.25	1.50	2.00	2.50	13.00
1885	1.25	1.50	2.00	2.75	16.00
1890	1.25	1.50	2.00	2.75	18.00
1895	1.25	1.50	2.00	2.75	18.00
1900	1.25	1.50	2.00	2.75	18.00
1905	1.25	1.50	2.00	2.75	18.00
1910	1.25	1.50	2.00	3.00	20.00
1915	1.50	2.00	2.50	3.50	25.00
1920	2.00	2.50	3.00	4.00	25.00
1925	3.00	3.50	4.00	5.00	25.00
1930	3.00	3.50	4.00	5.00	25.00
1935	3.50	4.00	4.50	5.00	30.00
1940	3.50	4.50	6.00	7.50	40.00
1945	8.00	10.00	14.00	16.00	115.00
1950	12.00	15.00	20.00	25.00	135.00
1955	20.00	25.00	35.00	45.00	145.00
1960	25.00	35.00	45.00	70.00	400.00
1965	50.00	65.00	75.00	115.00	800.00
1970	60.00	90.00	140.00	200.00	1200.00
1975	140.00	200.00	375.00	750.00	3200.00
1980	165.00	250.00	500.00	1100.00	6500.00
1985	175.00	350.00	550.00	1200.00	8000.00

Year	VF-20	EF-40	AU-50	MS-60	MS-63	MS-64	MS-65
1986	\$235	\$350	\$700	\$1200	\$2350	\$4950	\$10000
1987	235	400	575	1100	2300	4750	11000
1988	250	425	625	1200	3250	5950	19500
1989	325	475	700	1650	4850	10500	37500
1990	300	475	900	1500	3500	8250	22000
1991	275	450	700	1650	4250	8500	25000
1992	250	425	725	1650	4750	9000	30000
1993							
1994							
1995							

Year	P-60	P-63	P-64	P-65
1986	\$3500	\$7500	\$18000	\$24000
1987	4000	6500	15000	23000
1988	4500	8500	16000	55000
1989	5500	11500	20000	65000
1990	4300	9000	17000	56000
1991	8250	12000	21000	57000
1992	9250	15000	30000	53000
1993				
1994				
1995				

1850 Liberty Seated Dollar



Mintage

Business strikes: 7,500
Proofs: estimated 40-60

Coinage Context

Limited production: The production of Liberty Seated silver dollars at the Philadelphia Mint hit an all-time low in 1850. The reason for this is not clear in government records, but I believe the explanations are simple. To expand on the commentary given under 1849, the following seems to be a likely scenario:

The gold dollar, introduced in 1849, was popular in government circles and at the Mint, and saw extensive use by the public. At the same time, the silver dollar was not popular and was widely criticized. The year 1850 saw a tremendous production of gold dollars, amounting to 481,953 at the Philadelphia Mint alone, a quantity far greater than had been made of any Liberty Seated silver dollar. It seems to me that the Treasury was trying to promote the new gold dollar as the coin of choice of this denomination, and to minimize the silver dollar. This would also account, in part, for the very low silver dollar mintages of 1851 and 1852 (although the rising price of silver was an integral part of the equation). The exportation of dollars undoubtedly was a factor as well (see citation under Coinage Context, 1848). However, it is to be remembered that the quantity of silver dollars coined was equal to the amount of bullion specifically deposited in request for them.

In a specific contribution to this book, Dr. Harry Salyards points out that *Coinage Laws of the United States*, gives interesting information concerning silver imports and exports. 1850 was the only year in its immediate time frame in which exports and imports were very nearly equal. Specific figures follow. Exports: 1847: \$869,103; 1848: \$4,770,419; 1849: \$3,432,415; 1850: \$2,962,367; 1851: \$6,635,839; 1852: \$2,600,156; 1853: \$2,044,017; 1854: \$727,040. Imports: 1847: \$2,546,358; 1848: \$2,951,529; 1849: \$2,582,593; 1850: \$2,852,086; 1851: \$1,884,413; 1852: \$1,846,985; 1853: \$1,774,026; 1854: \$3,726,623.¹

Numismatic Information

Circulated grades: The 1850 dollar begins a decade of rare Liberty Seated dollar issues. Examples in circulated grades are scarce, as the production figure of 7,500 suggests. However, dealer specialists can usually supply examples in VF and EF grades. AU specimens are scarce but not to the extent that the low mintage might imply; often, such pieces are highly publicized when they are offered for sale.

Mint State grades: Mint State coins, when seen, are apt to be nearly fully prooflike and are often mistaken for Proofs. Indeed, they were struck from

¹ *Coinage Laws of the United States*, 4th Edition, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1894, p. 256. Carothers, *Fractional Money*, p. 108 gave incorrect information.

dies also used to coin Proofs. Such coins are rare at all Mint State grade levels but are extremely so in MS-63 or better. In 1982, Bruce Ampsacher stated that he knew of no gems in existence at that time and was aware of just two coins that could be called Mint State.¹ High-grade pieces often show diagonal die finish lines on obverse and reverse; these appear as hairlines or brush marks but, unlike these, the finish lines are microscopically *raised* on the coin surface.

Proof dollars: Although 1850 Proof sets of copper and silver coins are of extreme rarity, and although as Proofs of all denominations are also very rare, the 1850 dollar is most often seen. Apparently, additional coins were struck apart from those issued with sets. The reason for this may rest with the low business strike mintage of just 7,500 coins, third only to the 1851 and 1852 within the 1840-1857 era. Possibly, insiders at the Mint, knowing that business strike dollars had such a low mintage, produced restrikes in a larger than average quantity in view of an anticipated market for them. Whether restrikes were made, or whether all are originals, awaits further study of extant specimens. As it is, hitherto published information is often ambiguous.

Examples of the Proof 1850 Liberty Seated dollar were occasionally seen in dealers' hands in the 1950s, but by now they have been widely dispersed. The appearance of such a coin on the present market would raise many eyebrows.

Varieties

Business strikes:

1. Closed 5: Breen-5442. Obverse: With the knob on 5 touching the cusp above, a rare and seldom seen issue. Proofs were also coined from these dies (same as Proof No. 1 described below). Most if not all business strikes have a die crack which angles through the bottom portion of the O in ONE and then into the denticles below the N of ONE. In addition, another die crack begins at the denticles below UNITED, crosses the tops of all six letters of UNITED and angles back into the denticles above the ST in STATES. Also, this die has the diagonal defect in the horizontal stripes, which is clearly shown in John Kroon's article on the 1851 dollars which appeared in Collective Volume III of *The*

Gobrecht Journal. This identical die was used to strike all original 1851 dollars.²

2. Open 5: Breen-5443. Obverse: With the knob separate from the cusp, and with repunching at the base of the zero. Prominent die file marks extend slightly upward and to the left from the denticles below 50 in the date. Proofs of the Open 5 variety were coined from this obverse. Possible restrikes (see under Proofs below) have a heavy crack through the base of the date and are exceedingly rare. Proof dies were later used to make business strikes, accounting for the prooflike characteristic of circulating pieces.

Proofs:

1. Proof issue; Closed 5: Breen-5442. Obverse: Closed 5 in date, without repunching at the base of 0 in 1850. Reverse: With die file marks filling most of the shield interstices except the upper left section of the white stripes. A tiny line slants down to the right through the azure of the shield, ending at the lower right corner. Two arrows are joined. Faint die cracks are seen through ON of ONE and TED of UNITED, but not necessarily on all specimens. Struck early, before business strikes were made from these same dies (business strikes, as all 1850 dollars, have prooflike surfaces; see above). The Byron Reed Collection (owned by the city of Omaha, Nebraska) Proof is of this variety. Rarer than the following. Business strikes were also coined from these dies.

2. Proof issue; Open 5: Breen-5443. Obverse: Open 5 in date, with base of 0 in 1850 date double punched. Die file marks are seen below 50. Perfect die (without cracks). Reverse of 1840-1850 (described under 1840). Business strikes were coined from this obverse die. Specimens include the Garrett Collection coin (now in the American Numismatic Society Collection) and the Floyd T. Starr Collection coin (sold by Stack's, October 1992).

2a. Proof issue; Open 5: Breen-5443. Obverse: As preceding, but later issue (restrike?) with heavy crack through the base of date. Apparently, the dies were repolished after having served to produce business strikes. Walter H. Breen suggests that some of these are originals made in 1850, and others, particularly those with high knife-rims, are restrikes.³ More study is needed.

¹ Article, "Liberty Seated Dollars," in the Monthly Summary, *Coin Dealer Newsletter*, July-August, 1982.

² Die description from James C. Gray, letter to the author, October 5, 1992.

³ *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Proof Coins, 1722-1989*, p. 262.

1850 Liberty Seated: Market Values

Year	VF	EF	AU	Unc.	Proof
1860	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$5.00
1865	1.10	1.50	1.75	2.00	7.00
1870	1.25	1.50	2.00	2.50	8.00
1875	1.50	2.00	2.50	3.00	8.00
1880	2.00	2.50	3.00	3.50	10.00
1885	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.50	12.00
1890	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.50	12.00
1895	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.50	12.00
1900	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.50	12.00
1905	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.50	12.00
1910	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.50	12.00
1915	3.00	3.75	4.25	4.75	15.00
1920	3.50	4.50	4.75	5.50	15.00
1925	4.00	5.00	5.50	6.00	15.00
1930	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	18.00
1935	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	20.00
1940	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	30.00
1945	10.00	15.00	20.00	30.00	150.00
1950	12.00	15.00	20.00	30.00	185.00
1955	30.00	35.00	45.00	55.00	300.00
1960	70.00	80.00	95.00	120.00	375.00
1965	125.00	140.00	160.00	200.00	750.00
1970	175.00	200.00	250.00	325.00	1150.00
1975	225.00	300.00	450.00	950.00	4700.00
1980	350.00	500.00	1100.00	1650.00	9600.00
1985	425.00	675.00	1200.00	2900.00	8500.00

Year	VF-20	EF-40	AU-50	MS-60	MS-63	MS-64	MS-65
1986	\$525	\$975	\$1750	\$3600	\$8250	\$18000	\$38000
1987	525	1025	1850	3800	12000	24000	55000
1988	675	1050	1750	4950	22500	40000	65000
1989	750	1075	1950	5750	21500	42500	85000
1990	750	1100	3050	7000	14500	48000	95000
1991	800	1200	3000	7250	19000	51500	110000
1992	800	1350	3200	8250	27500	62000	125000
1993							
1994							
1995							

Year	P-60	P-63	P-64	P-65
1986	\$5000	\$10000	\$16000	\$25000
1987	5500	8250	12000	22000
1988	6000	9250	12000	35000
1989	8500	14000	22500	50000
1990	6500	12000	20000	45000
1991	11500	19000	28000	45000
1992	14000	25000	35000	47500
1993				
1994				
1995				

1850: Summary of Characteristics

Business Strikes:

Enabling legislation: Act of January 18, 1837

Designer of obverse: Robert Ball Hughes (after Gobrecht)

Designer of reverse: Robert Ball Hughes (after Reich)

Weight and composition: 412.5 grains; .900 silver, .100 copper

Melt-down (silver value) in year minted: \$1.018

Dies prepared: Obverse: Unknown; Reverse: Unknown

Business strike mintage: 7,500; Delivery figures by month: June: 7,500.

Estimated quantity melted: Unknown

Approximate population MS-65 or better: 0 or 1 (URS-0)

Approximate population MS-64: 1 or 2 (URS-1)

Approximate population MS-63: 2 to 4 (URS-2)

Approximate population MS-60 to 62: 10 to 20 (URS-5)

Approximate population VF-20 to AU-58: 350 to 500 (URS-10)

Characteristics of striking: Usually well struck and always prooflike

Known hoards of Mint State coins: None

Proofs:

Dies prepared: Obverse: 2; Reverse: 2.

Proof mintage: 40 to 60

Approximate population Proof-64 or better: 6 to 10 (URS-4)

Approximate population Proof-60 to 63: 15 to 25 (URS-5)

Commentary

High-grade business strikes are always seen with prooflike surfaces.

Additional Information

The Year 1850 in History

The decennial federal census showed that 23,191,876 people lived in the United States, of which nearly a million had arrived from European countries since 1846 (including 370,000 from Ireland 1847-1849). Only two million citizens lived west of the Mississippi River. In Congress the Compromise of 1850, largely engineered by Henry Clay, permitted California to be admitted to the Union (on September 9th) as a free state but did not forbid slavery in other territorial areas acquired from Mexico (nor did it condone the practice). Indicative of the increasing interest in women's rights, a national convention was organized by Lucy Stone and others and was held in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Texas was given \$10 million for the territory of New Mexico, and that territory's boundaries were reduced. Congress passed a new and stronger fugitive slave law as a sop to the South. Among its provisions, blacks were denied trial by jury; federal law rather than state law took precedence in the matter of runaway slaves. On July 9th, President Zachary Taylor died in office after a tenure of 16 months and was succeeded by his vice president, Millard Fillmore.

Total trackage of railroads was about 9,000 miles, about triple the length of tracks in place in 1840, while canal routes increased to about 3,600, up from about 3,300, during the same period. Caterpillars were a nuisance in New York, and the Brooklyn Institute sought to eliminate them by importing eight pairs of sparrows from England. The rest is history.

Nathaniel Hawthorne completed his *Scarlet Letter* story, featuring Hester Prynne and the red letter "A." *De Camptown Races*, by Stephen Collins Foster, was one of the more popular songs of the time. P.T. Barnum, by now America's best known impresario, signed Swedish singer "Jenny" Lind, age 30, for a two-year tour in America which would earn her \$130,000, most of which she would give to charity. From the outset, Lind captured the fancy of Americans, and her opening concert at Castle Garden in New York brought \$17,864.05 into the till.

Isaac M. Singer invented a sewing machine, which led to the worldwide distribution of the device. Before long, Singer sewing machines were familiar sights in remote African villages. The American Express Company was formed by a merger of several different companies, and would go on to achieve great success in transportation, security, and, years later, international exchange.

England, which had suffered financial distress, recovered as trade barriers were dropped. Earlier an importer of food, England became a net exporter, while its manufactured goods continued to find a market in many other countries, including the United States. Charles Dickens, England's best known writer of novels, often with social themes, saw his *David Copperfield* published. It included this famous line, reflective of the human predicament: "Annual income 20 pounds, annual expenditure 19 pounds 6 [shillings], result happiness. Annual income 20, annual expenditure 20 pounds 0 [shillings] and 6 [pence], result misery."

Double eagles were made in large quantities for the first time. The Philadelphia Mint produced 1,170,261 coins, and the New Orleans Mint struck 141,000.

Silver dollars of the 1850s were rare by 1889, when William von Bergen issued his buying book, *The Rare Coins of America*, in which this Boston dealer offered to pay \$3 for Fine grade 1850 dollars, \$4 for Uncirculated, and the following prices for other silver dollars of this decade:

1851 Good \$30, Fine \$50, Uncirculated \$75
1852 Good, \$30, Fine, \$50, Uncirculated \$75
1853 Good \$2, Fine \$4, Uncirculated \$5
1854 Good \$3, Fine \$5, Uncirculated \$8
1855 Good \$2, Fine \$3, Uncirculated \$6
1856 Good \$2, Fine \$3, Uncirculated \$4
1857 Good \$2, Fine \$3, Uncirculated \$4

1858, which was struck only in Proof finish, had the following buying prices: Good \$30, Fine \$40, and Uncirculated \$50, apparently a typographical error for \$50 was undoubtedly intended for Proof. Another error in the listing was the notation "Proofs only" for the year 1859.

Employees of banks and the Treasury Department, equipped with such a buying guide, could make a day's pay by finding a silver dollar of the 1850s among deposits, and many did so, providing the source for many such coins known today.

The Bankers' Magazine and Statistical Register commented on the rising price of silver on the London market (the center of silver trading at the time), noting that the metal was becoming scarce for three main reasons: (1) the influx of California gold, (2) the requirements for pay and maintenance to the German armies, and (3) the substitution of silver for gold in Holland. It was also noted that there was a demand for silver in California (a point that does not seem to have been raised by observers in America at the time).

1991

1850



MINTAGE: 190,800 + 2+ Proofs - finest seen E. Hipps specimen.

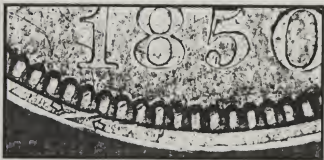
OBV. 1 - Extra "1" punched in dentils below left base of "1". Plainly seen even on low grade examples. Thin high date. Virtually even.

0.3 - 0.2 - 0.1 - 0.3

1 ↑ to left of 5

(Pairs with Reverse A.)

REV. A - Thin letters. "AM" connected. "RI" barely touch. Several flecks of die rust around devices. Most noticeable around arrow tips; field between leaf and "QU"; both "A"'s of "AMERICA".



1850 Extra "1". Obverse 1-A

OBV. 2 - No extra 1. Thin high date. Virtually even.

0.3 - 0.3 - 0.1+ - 0.3

1 ↑ to left of 5

All stars show light recutting. (Pairs with Reverse B.)

REV. B - Rust free die with no noticeable die characteristics.

OBV. 3 - Proof Die: No extra "1". Date low, virtually even.

0.5 - 0.5 - 0.4 - 0.5

1 ↑ to left of 5

Left base of "1" over right edge of dentil. "8" centered over left edge of dentil. Stars sharp and show centrils. (Pairs with Reverse C.)

REV. C - Proof Die: No notes available.

RARITY: G/VG-R3+ F/VF-R4 XF/AU-R4 UNC-R7

COMMENTS: Even though this coin has a fairly high mintage, it is scarce as a date. This fact is probably due to the large silver melt of 1853. This coin is available in all grades except UNC. - where it is extremely rare.

- 7 *Obv.* Open low date. Short, rather heavy numerals. The 9 low.
Rev. Heavy lettering.
- 8 *Obv.* Small open date, rather low.
Rev. Rather heavy lettering, all spaced. Proof.
- 8A *Obv.* Die of No. 8, but die crack at last three stars running into foot of Liberty.
Rev. The cracked die of No. 6.

O MINT

- 1 *Obv.* Small, open, medium date. Die crack, three lowest stars at left, and at 8 of date.
Rev. Medium lettering. Large o. Die crack at T in UNITED, and M of AMERICA.
- 2 *Obv.* Heavy date. Imperfections at 5th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th stars.
Rev. Perfect die of No. 1.

1850

- 1 *Obv.* Numerals touch base.
Rev. Medium lettering.
- 2 *Obv.* The 18 and 5 touch base.
Rev. Medium lettering. Proof.
- 3 *Obv.* 1 touches base. 850 are close.
Rev. Medium lettering.
- 4 *Obv.* Date close to base. The 1 almost touches.
Rev. Rather slender lettering.
- 5 *Obv.* Date does not touch base. Compass point shows.
Rev. Medium lettering. Cracks starting at E and D of UNITED, run into wreath.



1850.1



2



3



4



5



4

1964

158 REGISTER OF HALF DOLLAR DIE VARIETIES

1849 5 A. Double cut date and similar to No. 1, except the whole date has been re-cut.

Rev. A. Same as letter A.

1849 5 E. Over 1849. Double cut date, the first cut date was far over to the left, more than half the width of the base of 1, and then re-cut in the proper position. Knob of 9 was first cut below the end of the cross bar of 4. A different re-cut date than on No. 4.

Rev. E. Similar to letter D, except for a die crack above D STATES. There are horizontal brush lines at the lower end of the shield. Exceedingly rare.

1849 6 F. Very similar to No. 1, except 8 and 4 are close together. A die crack runs from the edge, below 9, diagonally across 849, to the base of the first star, then joining all stars on the left. Another from the end of the foot, to the edge.

Rev. E. Similar to letter D, except for a die crack that joins ES OF AMERICA and HALF DOL.

1849 7 G. Very similar to No. 1, except the base of 1 is higher, and more distant from the milling. There is a die crack from end of the left serif of 1, to end of the base of Liberty. All stars are re-cut.

Rev. G. Lines of the left vertical stripe on the shield, skip over the cross bars of the shield, and then across the feathers and project out to the left of the feathers of the neck. An akcidfect is on the left side of the shield.

227,000 Half Dollars Coined for Year 1850

1850 1 A. Low date, slender figures, high 1 and low 0. The foot is supported and there is drapery at the elbow.

Rev. A. A fine die crack runs from the edge above I in AMERICA, and then through CA, to the middle arrow head. An akcidfect is on the right side of the shield, and covers three vertical stripes.

1850 2 Aa. High date, the 1 is very close to the base of Liberty. The figures in the date are re-cut and set to the left of the original position. All stars, and the base of Liberty are re-cut.

Rev. Aa. Same as letter A, except it is perfect.

200,750 Half Dollars Coined for Year 1851

1851 1 A. All stars are re-cut, otherwise it is perfect.

Rev. A. A small akcidfect is on the lower right side of the shield, otherwise it is perfect.

1851 1a A. Same as No. 1, except for a die crack through the eighth star, and Liberty's head, then through her left shoulder. Another runs from the first star, across the base of Liberty, and out to the edge at the foot. All stars are re-cut.

Rev. A. Same as letter A.

TO: JULIAN LEIDMAN
301 585 0690
FAX:
BERNARD EDISON
FROM:
DATE: 10/19/99
PAGES: (including this cover sheet) 1

If you have any problems receiving this
fax, please call Marsha Birk at 314-331-6504.

fax

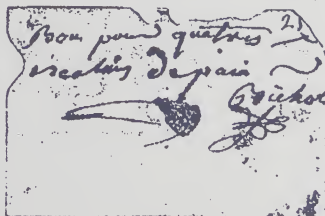
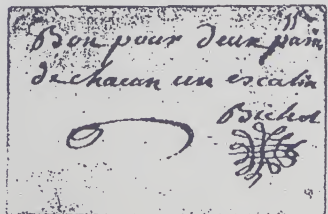
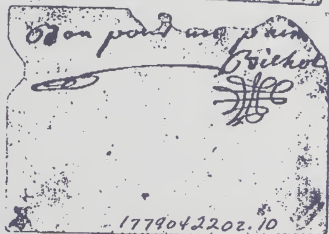
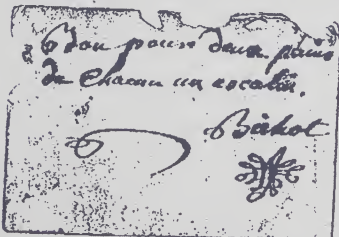
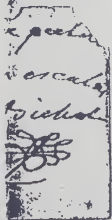
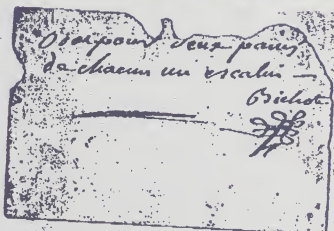
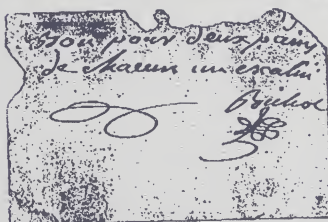
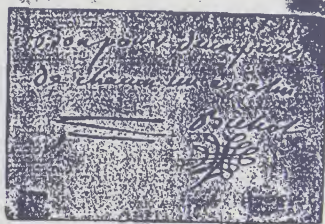
JULIAN:

The man you should write to at the Bibliotheque
Nationale and his address are as follows:

M. MICHEL POPOFF
CONSERVATEUR EN CHEF
CABINET DES MEDAILLES
BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE
58 RUE DE RICHELIEU
75084 PARIS CEDEX 02
FRANCE

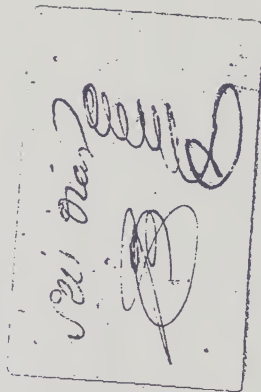
I hope this is helpful. I would be interested to
know if Monsieur Popoff responds to your letter.

BERNARD



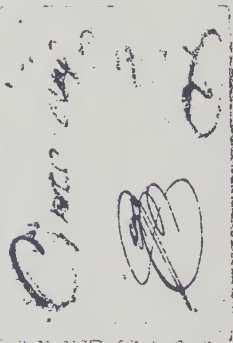
Good for two breads(? pains?)
 of each one a (escalin)

six



1793042401.1

cinco = five



1793042401.2



1793042401.3



1793042401.4

verso. not to be exhibited

1793042401.1-4

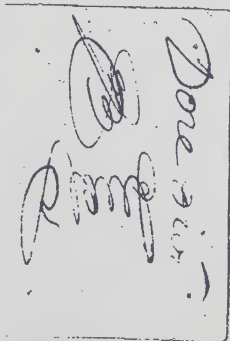


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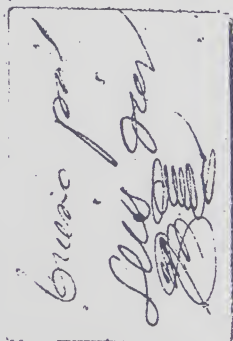


1793042401.2

Gift



1793042401.3



1793042401.4

six

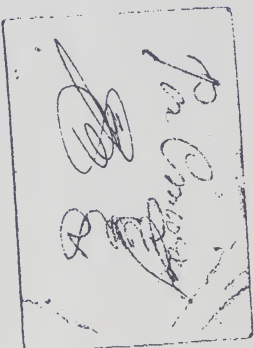
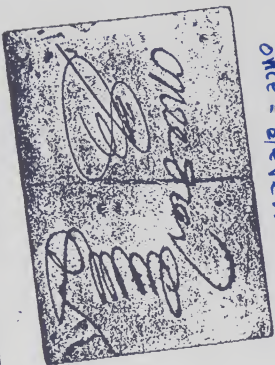
Side to be exhibited

1793042401.1

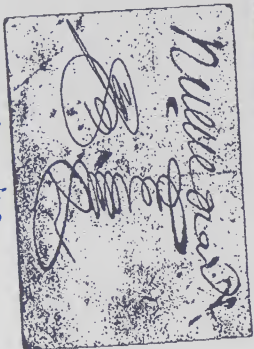
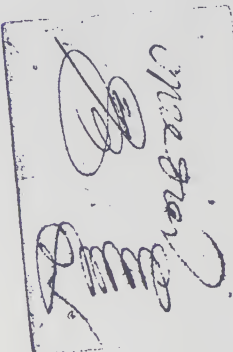


ONZE

once = eleven



ONZE



once = nine

